

Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund (2020/21) – Local authority funding summary

Published: March 2021

Authors: [Regional School Liaison Officers \(RSLOs\) for Service Children](#)

Introduction

Local authorities across Wales have been working closely with the SSCE Cymru team to identify their Service children and develop funding plans to support Service children in education. This document provides a summary of the plans that each local authority has developed, outlining how they will use the funding awarded to them from the Welsh Government’s Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund for the 2020/21 academic year.

The number of Service children identified in each local authority below is aligned with the Welsh Government’s definition of a Service child. SSCE Cymru also holds data on Service children that fall into a wider definition. See the [SSCE Cymru website](#) for more information on these definitions and a full breakdown of the data on Service children under both definitions.

Contents

North Wales

Anglesey	2
Conwy	2
Denbighshire	2
Flintshire	3
Gwynedd	3
Wrexham	3

East Wales

Blaenau Gwent	3
Caerphilly	4
Monmouthshire	4
Newport	4
Powys	4
Torfaen	4

South Wales

Bridgend	5
Cardiff	5
Merthyr Tydfil	5
Rhondda Cynon Taf	5
Vale of Glamorgan	6

West Wales

Carmarthenshire	6
Ceredigion	6
Neath Port Talbot	6
Pembrokeshire	7
Swansea	7

North Wales

RSLO: Nia Williams

Anglesey

Data: 45 Service children in 6 schools

Funding total: £4,750

Summary of funded activities/projects: Anglesey County Council will use the funding to identify a key person within each school to coordinate support for their Service children and their families. School staff will attend SSCE Cymru's CPD training and coordinators will work with the Regional School Liaison Officer (RSLO) for Service Children to create a work plan which will identify priorities that their school will implement. Sharing good practice and collaborative working with other schools who have Service children will be promoted. Coordinators will also attend meetings/conventions across the local authority and regionally, to raise awareness and highlight possible activities that could be considered/adopted in supporting other vulnerable groups.

Conwy

Data: 41 Service children in 16 schools

Funding total: £5,500

Summary of funded activities/projects: Conwy County Council has decided on using the funds in varying ways, dependent on each school's needs. These interventions will include: giving staff time to attend ELSA training and implement various therapeutic strategies on a 1:1 basis and in small groups; purchasing sets for Lego therapy sessions; creating small groups or individual wellbeing sessions, including playing games, exploring emotions and discussing stories about change; developing mental health and wellbeing groups and clubs; implementing pastoral support sessions and purchasing resources to make pastoral boxes; establishing a Nurture Room to ensure that ELSA trained staff are available in a safe and comfortable place for children; creating a virtual after-school support group provision, in which students can receive 1:1 support and advice from a Learning Coach or mentor.

Denbighshire

Data: 50 Service children in 22 schools

Funding total: £6,750

Summary of funded activities/projects: Denbighshire County Council's aims are to release staff from each school with Service children to attend training delivered by the RSLO. Each lead member of staff in the identified schools will be given half a day to meet with the RSLO to discuss the needs of Service children within the specific school. Staff will also be able to use this time to undertake an audit of current practice in their school. Using the results of the audit, the school will select priorities/activities to address which they feel will have the greatest impact in their school. They will also develop a central network for staff working in schools with Service children, which will be hosted on Hwb. This will be accessible to all staff in the identified schools, with the possibility of adding additional school staff in the future.

Flintshire

Data: Unknown

Funding total: £3,750

Summary of funded activities/projects: Flintshire County Council will use the funds for professional development opportunities for staff in each of the schools where there are Service children. This will be delivered the RSLO. The grant allocation will also pay for release time for those teachers to carry out follow up work to develop their school-based strategy. The funding allocation will also include the purchase of resources for the school to use, with a particular focus on planning to support wellbeing and resilience of Service children in education. This will ensure that schools can plan effectively and look to develop activities for Service children in 2022.

Gwynedd

Data: 9 Service children in 5 schools

Funding total: £1,250

Summary of funded activities/projects: Gwynedd County Council's use of the funding will be for an identified member of staff from each school to attend a two-hour CPD training package for schools delivered by the RSLO. Staff will be released for a total of 1.5 days to work with the RSLO on activities, including discussion groups with Service children and time to audit and implement activities/priorities identified in the SSCE Cymru checklist for their school.

Wrexham

Data: 23 Service children in 10 schools

Funding total: £3,000

Summary of funded activities/projects: Wrexham County Council will use the funding to strengthen their data capture, identifying exactly who and where the Service children are in the county and ascertaining their needs. The local authority will explore the type of interventions which may help to support this group in the long-term. This will include providing training for appropriate school-based staff, such as teachers, youth workers and counsellors.

East Wales

RSLO: Caitlin Woodland

Blaenau Gwent

Data: 13 Service children in 6 schools

Funding total: £1,000

Summary of funded activities/projects: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will offer health, wellbeing and resilience-building workshops from the Military veteran organisation, Forces Fitness. The workshops are available for every class with a Service child. Schools will also be encouraged to engage with support available from SSCE Cymru. In addition, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council will ensure that

schools and the council have a strong understanding of how many Service children there are in Blaenau Gwent and which schools they attend, by implementing identification of Service children on SIMS.

Caerphilly

Data: 64 Service children in 23 schools

Funding total: £10,000

Summary of funded activities/projects: Caerphilly County Borough Council will provide health, wellbeing and resilience-building workshops from the Military veteran organisation, Forces Fitness. The workshops are available for classes with a Service child. Schools will also be encouraged to engage with support available from SSCE Cymru.

Monmouthshire

Data: Unknown

Funding total: £5,000

Summary of funded activities/projects: Monmouthshire County Council will provide health, wellbeing and resilience-building workshops from the Military veteran organisation, Forces Fitness to every primary and secondary school in Monmouthshire. The workshops will emphasise to schools the importance of identifying Service children and supporting them, with the help from SSCE Cymru.

Newport

Data: 72 Service children in 23 schools

Funding total: £12,500

Summary of funded activities/projects: Newport City Council is offering poetry and song writing workshops for Service children and their peers from the charity Never Such Innocence. In addition, Never Such Innocence will be delivering after-school virtual workshops for Service children and their parents/carers, which focus on allowing Service children the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings in a safe and constructive way. The outcomes of these workshops will be used to create a virtual booklet and animated film to celebrate the voices and experiences of Service children. Newport City Council will also be using their funding to offer Forces Fitness virtual activity sessions that include fitness activities and team challenges, as well as health and wellbeing tips that aim to build resilience and confidence. The funding available will also be used to partially finance an activity weekend for Service children from Newport and Monmouthshire, which is being run in collaboration with SSCE Cymru and Forces Fitness.

Powys

Data: 224 Service children in 32 schools

Funding total: £30,500

Summary of funded activities/projects: Powys County Council's funding will be used for targeted support and intervention for Service children. Money will be distributed to every school with Service children on a 'per child' basis, using the data on Service children that the local authority reported in January 2021. Each school may choose a number of strategies to support the specific needs of their Service children, such as additional Learning Support Assistant or other staffing, hours for literacy and numeracy interventions and/or emotional and wellbeing support. The council's specialist vulnerable groups team and SSCE Cymru will work with schools in identifying relevant approaches to supporting their Service children.

Torfaen

Data: 25 Service children in 17 schools

Funding total: £3,500

Summary of funded activities/projects: Torfaen County Borough Council will offer health, wellbeing and resilience-building workshops from the Military veteran organisation, Forces Fitness. Every primary class with a Service child will benefit from a one-hour workshop and each secondary with Service children will receive

up to three hours of workshops. In addition, a portion of the funding has been allocated to offer supportive resources and materials to schools, depending on the specific needs and challenges of Service children identified by the RSLO in East Wales.

South Wales

RSLO: Annabel Harries

Bridgend

Data: 64 Service children in 26 schools

Funding total: £8,500

Summary of funded activities/projects: Bridgend County Council will use the funding to release members of staff in each school to engage with the SSCE Cymru CPD package, which aims to raise awareness and understanding of Service children's needs and to build staff confidence with supporting Service children in school. Funding will also be given to schools with the highest numbers of Service children to buy suitable resources, such as books and games to support ongoing projects and activities. Schools will utilise the SSCE Cymru Toolkit for recommended resources.

Cardiff

Data: 59 Service children in 27 schools

Funding total: £8,000

Summary of funded activities/projects: Cardiff County Council will use the funding to provide ELSA training for key staff in two schools to improve their support for Service children. As well as the training, staff will also have time to implement their ELSA skills by offering 1:1 support and group sessions for Service children. The funding will also support the purchase of Thrive training for one staff member. This aims to improve the wellbeing of all children in the school. Funding will also be used to release an identified member of staff in each school to engage with SSCE Cymru activities, work with the RSLO, discuss collaboration and implement activities that will embed support for Service children in the schools. Staff will be able to engage with SSCE Cymru resources (checklist, online tools and toolkit), with the RSLO for school visits and with the CPD training sessions. Finally, part of the funding will be used to purchase a number of Little Troopers resources, which include primary wellbeing courses, as well as resource packs with lesson plans and materials for teachers to use with their Service children.

Merthyr Tydfil

Data: 36 Service children in 18 schools

Funding total: £4,750

Summary of funded activities/projects: Merthyr Tydfil County Council will use the funding to provide ELSA training for key staff in a number of schools, to understand how to better support Service children. This includes staff time and resources to implement the ELSA training with Service children by offering 1:1 and group support. Funding will also be used to release members of staff in each school to engage with SSCE Cymru support and the RSLO.

Rhondda Cynon Taf

Data: 114 Service children in 48 schools

Funding total: £15,500

Summary of funded activities/projects: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Council will use the funding to purchase a number of Little Troopers resources. This includes primary wellbeing packs, which will be delivered across the summer term in schools where primary aged Service children have been identified. It also includes resource packs, with lesson plans and materials for teachers to use within each setting. Funding will also be used to purchase workshops with Forces Fitness for secondary and all-through schools. The focus of these sessions will be on health, wellbeing and resilience building, which will incorporate Service children and their class 'bubbles' in the current climate.

Vale of Glamorgan

Data: 286 Service children in 27 schools

Funding total: £39,000

Summary of funded activities/projects: Vale of Glamorgan County Council will use the funding to cover the cost of staff to support identified Service children with academic and wellbeing needs. Funding will also be used for Lego Therapy. This includes a training course, staff cover costs and a handbook. Some of the funding will be used to cover the cost of staff running Nurture Groups and ELSA Sessions. This will involve foundation phase, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils. Part of the funding will also be used for Trauma Informed Schools training and accreditation. Finally, the funding will be used to set up a staff group to share best practice/resources, to support schools in strengthening their expertise and to ensure an improved level of support for MOD families.

West Wales

RSLO: Yasmin Todd

Carmarthenshire

Data: 77 Service children in 35 Schools

Funding: £10,500

Summary of activities/projects: Carmarthenshire County Council will be using the funding to allow staff the time to engage with SSCE Cymru. This will allow staff the opportunity to engage with CPD training to develop their understanding of Service children's needs and challenges, as well as working closely with the RSLO during the school visit process. The local authority has also invested in Little Troopers wellbeing packs for the primary schools in the area, which will allow schools the opportunity to better understand Service children's wellbeing needs.

Ceredigion

Data: 7 Service children in 2 schools

Funding: £1000

Summary of activities/projects: Ceredigion County Council will use the funding to purchase Little Troopers wellbeing packs for the two schools that have identified Service children. The local authority will also make sure that funding is available to ensure that schools can engage with SSCE Cymru to help develop their understanding of Service children through CPD training and school visits. Ceredigion County Council have also recognised the importance of raising awareness for Service children, and as such, will continue to engage with schools in the hope of collecting more robust data. This will involve SSCE Cymru attending relevant meetings to promote the importance of the data and understanding the needs of Service children.

Neath Port Talbot

Data: 72 Service children in 26 schools

Funding: £9750

Summary of activities/projects: Neath Port Talbot Council will be using their funding to train a variety of staff, including the Armed Forces Education Liaison Officer, vulnerable learners team and school staff. This is to ensure that staff are appropriately skilled in understanding and meeting the needs of Service children. The local authority has recognised the importance of engaging with the Service community and will therefore be setting up coffee mornings and activities to work with Service children and their families. From the data collection activity, Neath Port Talbot identified that Ysgol Cwm Brombil has a significant number of Service children on roll and as such, funding will be used to engage with the RSLO to aid with the development of activities to support Service children in the school.

Pembrokeshire

Data: 146 Service children in 24 schools

Funding: £16,000

Summary of activities/projects. Pembrokeshire County Council will use the funding to establish a single point of contact in two of the clusters with the most Service children- Haverfordwest and Pembroke. These clusters will benefit from a point of contact who has an understanding of Service children's needs, can offer pastoral support, can meet with their cluster to discuss supporting Service children and can ensure that schools within their cluster are able to offer robust support systems for Service children joining their school. Pembrokeshire County Council will also ensure that each school has an ELSA trained member of staff and that they have the time to deliver this support to Service children. The local authority will also use the funding to release staff to engage with SSCE Cymru. This will allow staff to develop their knowledge of Service children through CPD training and the school visit process. Finally, Pembrokeshire County Council would like to develop the family and child support systems that are already in place. For this reason, the council will be working to strengthen the admissions policy, create a leaflet about the local area, improve the website with information for Service families and create a Pembrokeshire school pack to help support the Service families that are moving into the area.

Swansea

Data: 53 Service children in 24 schools

Funding: £7000

Summary of activities/projects: Swansea Council will use the funding to release a member of staff for a day in each school to help them develop their understanding of Service children. This will involve key members of staff engaging with SSCE Cymru school visits and the CPD package. Swansea Council is developing an SSCE Swansea group to support Service children in the area to make sure that learners are fully supported and that their needs are met. The local authority has committed to distributing the funding on a per Service child basis in the schools that have identified Service children. This will allow schools to invest in resources that can support Service children. The local authority recognises the importance of data collection and will therefore aim to map the performance of Service children using current data and explore future methods for tracking Service children to assist in the future allocation of funding.