

ssce
CYMRU



SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN
IN EDUCATION WALES

CYNORTHWYO PLANT MILWYR
YN YSGOLION CYMRU

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021



ssce
CYMRU



CLILC • WLGA

SSCE Cymru mission

Knowledge and evidence

Coordinate research and compile evidence on the experiences of Service children in education to ensure their needs are well understood.

Activity and resources

Collaborate with members of the SSCE Cymru Network to conduct activities and produce resources that will help support Service children throughout their education.

Supporting policy and systems

Work with organisations to provide evidence and impact policy relevant to supporting Service children in education.



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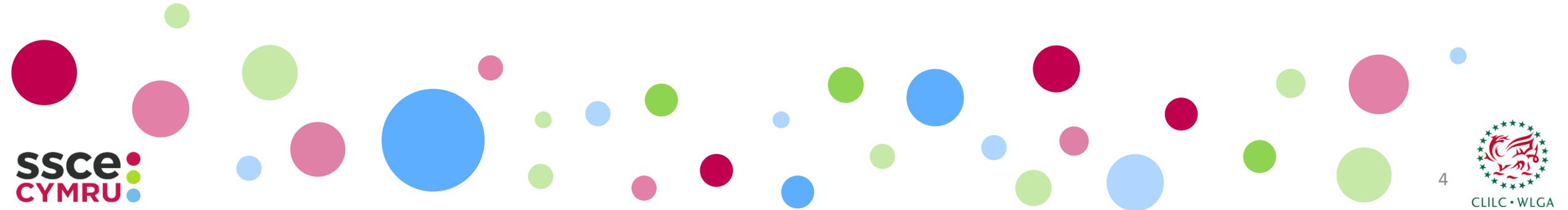
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- [Llanbedr CiW School.](#)



SSCE CYMRU UPDATES



Regional School Liaison Officers project

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT: SCHOOL MEETINGS

A structure has been developed and is now being conducted by the RSLOs.

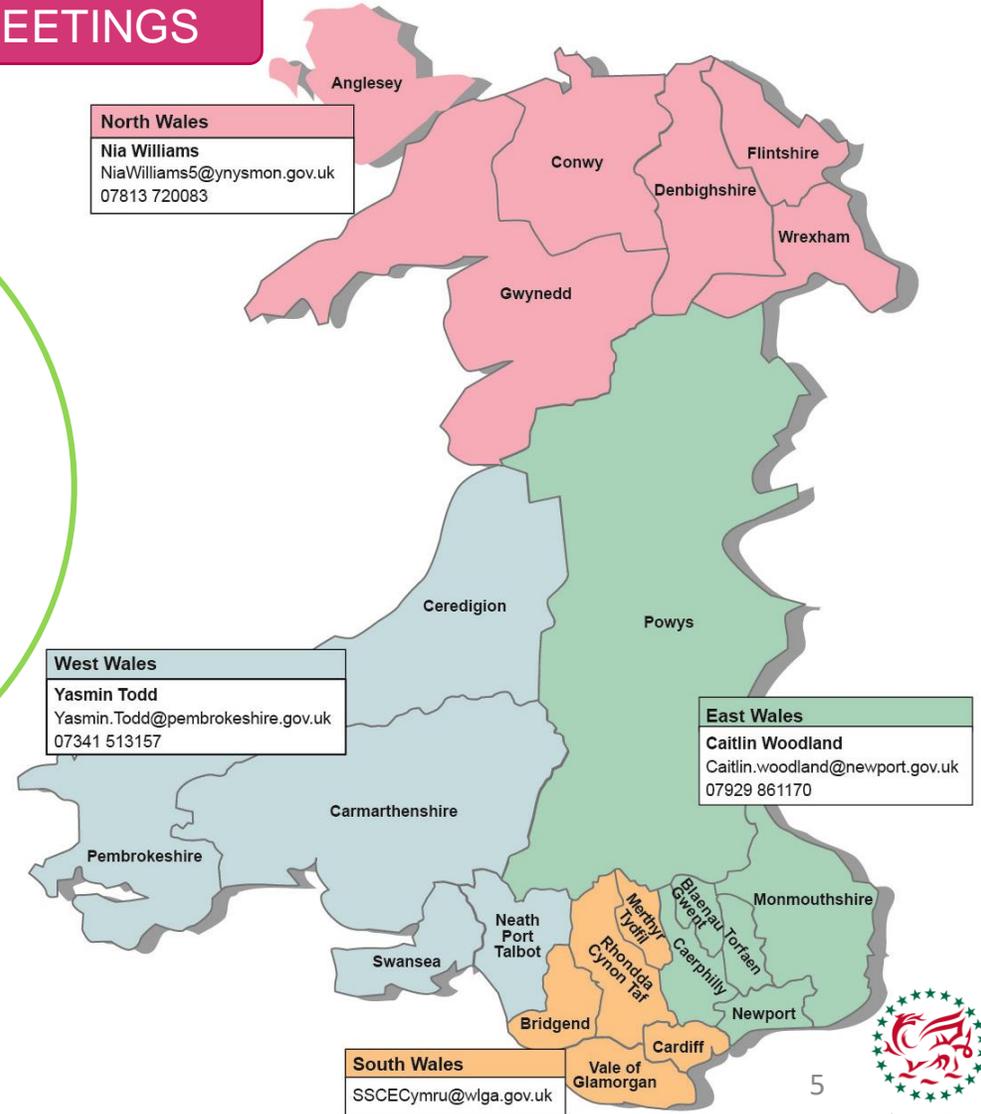
Up to four meetings/visits with any school that has Service children on roll.

Meetings include:

- Implementing SSCE Cymru checklist ([Tool 1](#))
- Using SSCE Cymru [School toolkit](#) and [tools](#)
- Service children discussion groups
- Engaging with the Armed Forces
- Accessing funding.

"I thoroughly enjoyed our meeting yesterday, it was really useful and informative. I have lots of new ideas [...]. Thanks for all your help so far."

Visit www.SSCECymru.co.uk for further information



Regional School Liaison Officers project

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT: CPD TRAINING

Two-hour CPD delivered on MS Teams for school staff in groups of up to eight.

"The whole course was fantastic. I never really thought about the impact on Service children so it was a real eye opener."

Feedback shows that **100%** of participants have found the CPD sessions beneficial.

We can also deliver a shorter CPD session to other audiences on request.

At the start and end of each session, we ask how confident participants feel in understanding how to support their Service children (from 1 - 10).
Average at start: 4
Average at end: 8

So far...
RSLOs have delivered CPD sessions to 80 participants from 35 schools.

We are now offering at least six CPD sessions each month for school staff.

[See dates and sign up here.](#)

Service Children Ambassadors

WHO?

Any child or young person who;
 1. has a connection to the Armed Forces **and**
 2. is currently in education in Wales.



AIMS

Sharing experiences
Representing Service children
 Engaging with SSCE Cymru Network

BENEFITS

Making friends
 Sharing experiences of being a Service child
Impacting decision making

ACTIVITIES

Celebrating Armed Forces Day
Making SSCE Cymru resources and films
 Attending meetings



Visit www.SSCECymru.co.uk
 for further information

New SSCE Cymru Service Family Guide

Includes:

- Service children's experiences
- Armed Forces in Wales
- Living in Wales
- Education in Wales
- School admissions and term-time absence
- Health, wellbeing and ALN
- School support.

Available at:

www.SSCECymru.co.uk/toolkits/ServiceFamilyGuide

Supporting Service children funding webinar

SSCE Cymru held its first funding webinar for schools in Wales with Service children on roll.

AGENDA

- MOD Education Support Fund
- Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust – Forces for Change programme
- Armed Forces Education Trust
- Welsh Government Funding
 - SSCE Cymru top tips
 - Good practice examples
 - Q&A session

Held on
Wednesday
23rd June
14:00-16:00

OBJECTIVES

1. To raise awareness of the funding available to support Service children in Wales
2. To share good practice examples
3. To develop an understanding of what a strong funding bid looks like.

Attended
by **20**
schools

“Great webinar, I feel much more confident to apply for funding in the future.”

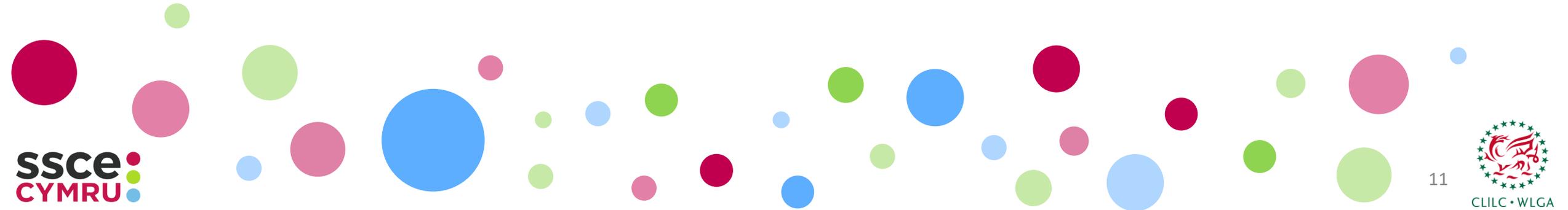
For more information on the SSCE Cymru programme,
please visit www.SSCECymru.co.uk and follow
[@SSCECymru](https://twitter.com/SSCECymru) on Twitter.



Please feel free to circulate the SSCE Cymru newsletter
to your own network and contacts. Anyone that would
like to join the SSCE Cymru Network can sign up [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS



CPD training

Delivered by the SSCE Cymru team, CPD sessions are now scheduled to take place during the last week of each month.

See the [SSCE Cymru website](#) for further information and to book a place.

USW Virtual Summer School

6th-9th July

The University of South Wales (USW) is offering Service children an opportunity to experience university-level study through a programme of interactive, subject-specific sessions, along with higher education information, advice and guidance.

For further information, visit the [USW website](#).

The SSCE Cymru website includes a calendar of events for Service children, Service families, schools/educators and other professionals.

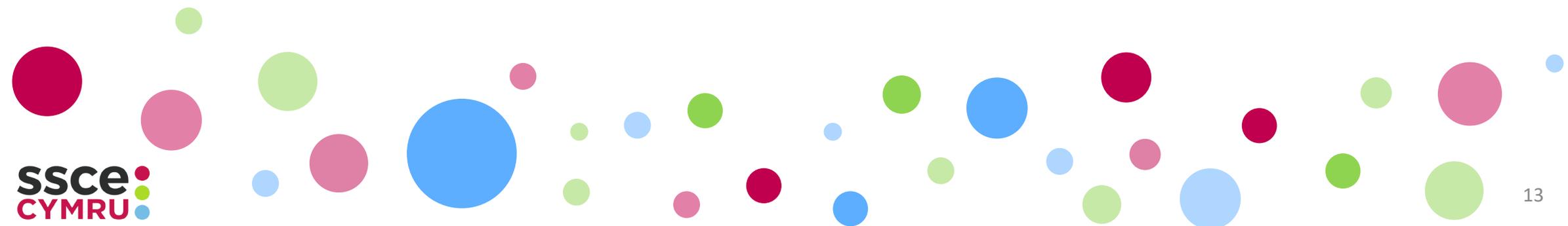
Click [here](#) to see details of upcoming events.

To share details of an event that is relevant to the Armed Forces Community, please contact SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk.



SSCE CYMRU NETWORK MEMBER UPDATES

EDUCATION ORGANISATIONS



Research exploring the specific needs of Service children in Wales

The International Centre for Guidance Studies (iCeGS) at the University of Derby has been commissioned by the [SCiP Alliance](#) to undertake research to help capture the specific needs of Service children in Wales. iCeGS is working closely with SSCE Cymru, as well as members of the Ministry of Defence education team, to understand Service children in Wales and the Welsh context surrounding education and Service children. This research will build on previous research undertaken by SSCE Cymru and will help iCeGS to explore how support for Service children is continuing to develop.

For an opportunity to share their experiences of supporting Service children in education in Wales, schools are encouraged to complete the survey **available [here](#)**. The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete and can be accessed until **31st July**.

Your participation in the survey will contribute to the further development of the [Thriving Lives Toolkit](#), which has been created to help schools support their Service children through reflective practice and continuing professional development resources. The findings from this research will help to ensure that the toolkit can meet the specific needs of Service children in Wales and that schools are fully equipped to provide effective support. Your contribution to this research will go a long way in supporting the development of a Thriving Lives Toolkit that can be used across Wales in all schools. The Toolkit will help schools to support Service children in the best way possible during what can often be a chaotic experience for them.

Membership offer

We know that identification of more able service children can be difficult due to the frequent movement of schools; we support teachers in this as part of the guidance and resources available for our members.

The following links show how NACE supports its members, with specific resources available for schools in Wales (including some in both English and Welsh language):

- [About NACE](#)
- [Membership overview](#) and our “Join in June” offer [news announcement](#) and [flyer](#)
- [Sample resources](#) including support for curriculum reform in Wales and leading on more able.

The membership offer gives 15 months’ membership for the price of 12 for new members joining this month. The aim is to support new members to get started with NACE resources and CPD materials ahead of September, so they’re ready to gain full value from the very start of the new academic year.

Armed Forces in Wales Awards 2021

Do you know someone who works in or with the Armed Forces who you feel deserves some recognition?

The Armed Forces in Wales Awards are looking for suitable nominations for each of the four categories:

- **Armed Forces in Wales Award**
- **Cadet/Youth Support Award**
- **Armed Forces Sports Award**
- **Covenant Award**

The final date to submit nominations is **3rd September 2021**. Nominations are initiated by completing the [AFWA 21 Nomination form](#).

Queries should be directed to: 160X-MCI-AFWA-GroupMailbox@mod.gov.uk.



Centenary Art and Spoken Word Competition

To celebrate its 100th anniversary, the Royal British Legion in Wales has partnered with SSCE Cymru to run a creative centenary competition. The competition will give children and young people the chance to showcase their work at the Welsh Festival of Remembrance in November 2021.

This will be a great opportunity for children and young people to get involved, learn more about The Royal British Legion and make a mark in the Legion's 100th year.

The competition categories include:

- Spoken word competition
- Art competition.

Both categories are open to children and young people aged 7 to 18 years. The competition deadline is **Monday 26th July**.

For further information, visit the [SSCE Cymru website](https://www.ssce-cymru.org.uk).

DCYP restructure

The Directorate Children & Young People (DCYP) has recently undergone a restructure, dividing its responsibilities across two separate organisations to better serve the needs of its Service children and their families.

The functions of DCYP have been split into a policy organisation, known as **Armed Forces Families and Safeguarding (AFFS)**, which will lead on the development of all Defence-level education, children and young people policy, safeguarding issues and childcare support policy.

Defence Children Services (DCS) will look after MOD Schools and Settings. The team includes essential specialist support staff, comprising educational psychologists, as well as the Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS), which provides more general support to families.

Educational support to families continues as normal, with the delivery of all services being unaffected by the restructure. AFFS and DCS will be up and running at full capacity by 31st August ready for the new school year.





**STRENGTHENING
FAMILIES
BY YOUR SIDE**

**THE RIGHT SUPPORT
AT THE RIGHT TIME**

Every family needs a bit of support from time to time, and getting the right support, at the right time, can make all the difference. The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) and the Naval Families Federation (NFF) have a heightened sense of awareness of the sacrifices that families make. We also know that sometimes families feel a difference in support if they are living away from base ports.

That's why we are delighted to launch a new offer of support for all currently serving Royal Navy and Royal Marines families.

'Strengthening Families- By Your Side' has been developed by the RNRMC and the NFF, in partnership with the Royal Navy, Aggie Weston's, Home-Start UK, KIDS, Kings Active Foundation, the Naval Children's Charity and Relate.



For further information, visit the [NFF website](#).

Army Families Federation

Army&You: Families come in all shapes and sizes, and through the pages of Army&You, we love telling your stories about Army life, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, family make-up or rank. In our summer edition, we look at how the Army is geared to reflect modern-day families.

In addition, we bring baby talk into focus with a rundown on where you can find support for your maternal mental health, while best-selling author, Amanda Prowse, talks fiction and following the flag - and don't miss the giveaways where you can win a fabulous hotel stay for two!

Look out for a feature on SSCE Cymru on page 45 – read it online at www.armyandyou.co.uk or follow us on social media @armyandyou.

Army Families Federation: AFF is focusing on [education and childcare](#) and the issues that affect you. Contact our Wales Regional Lead for support as an Army family.



A screenshot of a digital communication from the Army Families Federation. At the top left is the 'aff army families federation' logo. Below it is the tagline 'the voice of Army families'. On the right is a portrait of Sadie Baldwin. To the left of her portrait is a green box containing her name 'Sadie Baldwin', her title 'Regional Lead Wales', and her contact information: '07527 492868' and 'wales@aff.org.uk'. Below the portrait and contact box is the text 'Supporting Army families wherever you live'. At the bottom left is the website 'aff.org.uk'. To the right are icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and a combined '&@' icon for Army and You. At the bottom right is an 'e-news @' icon. At the very bottom, there is small text: 'Army Families Federation is a charitable incorporated organisation registered in England and Wales with registered charity number 1176393 and a charity registered in Scotland with registered charity number SC048282 having its principal office at IDL 414, Floor 1, Zone 6, Ramlles Building, Marlborough Lines, Morriston Road, Andover SP18 8JH'.

Education

Is separation and deployment a challenge for your young people? Many children and schools tell researchers that they would like to see support available when someone in the family is deployed or living away for spells of time.

Our article outlines some of the research undertaken and help and advice available: <https://bit.ly/3wcDes8>
@RAFHIVE #ServiceChildren

Relocation

The RAF Families Federation has the [RAF Relocation Guide - Wales | RAF Families Federation \(raf-ff.org.uk\)](#)

If you would like to share your resources to the wider RAF audience please forward them to jade.coe@raf-ff.org.uk

Royal Navy Family & People Support

If your Royal Navy Service Person is deploying soon don't forget to:

Order a Memory Box for your Children



Make sure your Service Person has requested a Deployment Information Pack

Check you are a member of the RN Forum

Check for an Official Unit Facebook Group

To request information on the above email:
nrm-wio@royalnavymail.mod.uk

www.royalnavy.mod.uk/forums



@RoyalNavyFPS

**ROYAL NAVY
FAMILY &
PEOPLE SUPPORT**



A professional dedicated support service for our people and their families

Reading Force

The Reading Force charity gives free books and special scrapbooks to serving and ex-serving Forces families with children of all ages, from babies to young adults.

Families share the books, chat about them and fill a scrapbook. It is available to ALL Forces families, at home or away. Taking part helps family stay connected, and families can take part at any time.

Register your school or organization now to receive scrapbooks. The resources are free and may be given to families by schools, welfare settings, and community groups as part of pastoral support.

Schools and settings can register online to receive scrapbooks for families and children:

www.readingforce.org.uk



"It is a really nice activity that his dad can still join in with while he is away on deployment. It means we can still have our family time and share something."



Reading Force are now supporting online book clubs for adults, teens and juniors with a military connection – serving, reservist, veterans and family members. We are looking for coordinators to run the book clubs, and your members can be in your local area or, because they are online, can live elsewhere. Possible coordinators could be Welfare Officers, Community Development Officers, Military Kids Club Leaders, Service Children's Champions, and more. More details:

<https://www.readingforce.org.uk/online-book-clubs-supported-by-reading-force/>

Forces Fitness

Forces Fitness is a multi award-winning company that provides a number of education and training programs, focusing on health, wellbeing and building resilience.

Our current program operating with SSCE Cymru has seen fantastic feedback – thousands of children engaged, including hundreds of Service children. All seeing improvements in areas such as health, wellbeing and team work, all while having great fun! 98% of attendees wish to take part in our activities again!

We work in partnership with many local authorities, schools, colleges and organisations across Wales on tailored programs to suit your needs. We can conduct sessions for all learners within your place of education and can run specifically-designed workshops for you. We are here to build sessions around your vision and desired outcomes! The Forces Fitness team of qualified teachers and instructors has now delivered sessions to over 150 places of education in Wales and to over 15,000 learners. Forces Fitness has been operating since 2008 and has gained a reputation for being the lead organisation in Wales to operate within schools to improve pupils' health and wellbeing.

For further information, please contact sean@forcesfitness.co.uk or visit www.forcesfitness.co.uk



“I love Forces Fitness and look forward to the next session.”

It was super fun and helped my confidence, I enjoyed taking part and would love to do it more often.”

Help for Heroes returns to face-to-face veterans' support in Wales

We support Service personnel, Veterans, and those who have served alongside our Armed Forces, who were injured or became ill during service, or have an injury or illness due to their service, and their families and carers.

With more of us able to meet up again safely, we have delivered face-to-face Covid-secure services and activities in Port Talbot, Newport, Bridgend and Llanelli. Socially distanced walks take place throughout the week, and football taster sessions started in June.

Activities are also planned for north and west Wales, with the aim of reaching more people closer to home. In line with Covid guidance, numbers are limited, so participants must register prior to attendance. Some events, including weekly virtual coffee mornings, model-making, photography classes, quizzes and Pilates sessions, which started during lockdown, will continue online.

To get support from Help for Heroes go to helpforheroes.org.uk/get-support, email getsupport@helpforheroes.org.uk or call 0300 303 9888.

**HELP for
HEROES**
SUPPORT FOR OUR WOUNDED



UK Veterans Family Study

Are you a spouse / intimate partner or child (now 18+) of a military veteran living in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland? If so...

We want to hear from you!

We want to understand, from your perspective, what supports have best helped your wellbeing after your family left the military.

Can you spare an hour to take part in a confidential telephone interview with a researcher?

We would love to hear from you! If you get involved, you can choose to be entered into a prize draw for a £50 Amazon gift card.



UK Veterans Family Study

Contact our researchers to find out more:

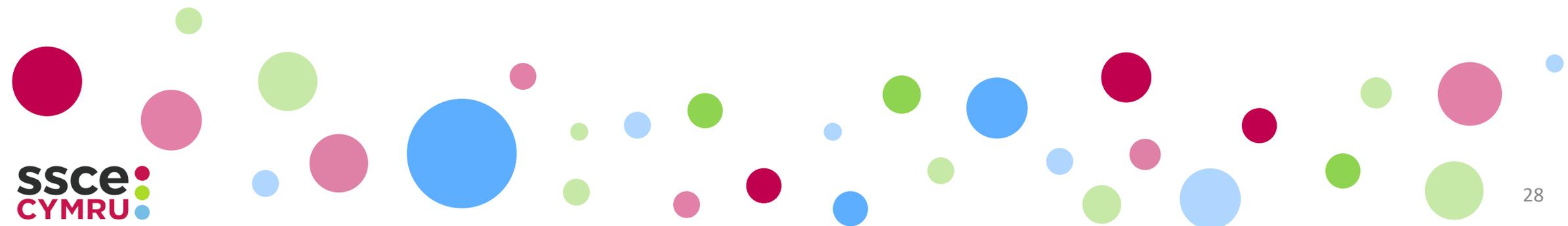
-  UKVeteranFamilyStudy@gmail.com
-  @Vet_Families





SSCE CYMRU NETWORK MEMBER UPDATES

LOCAL AUTHORITIES



Month of the Military Child event

Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) Council Celebrated the Armed Forces 'Month of the Military Child' by hosting an online day of events for the children of Service personnel living locally.

In conjunction with Supporting Service Children in Education (SSCE) Cymru, RCT Council funded an online virtual event for Service Children in South Wales on Saturday 24th April 2021.

Bringing together the children of Armed Forces personnel from Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, a series of activities was held throughout the day as part of Month of the Military Child.

The day was filled with virtual activities, competitions and prizes for young people up to the age of 16.

The event included sessions from Forces Fitness, RAF Coningsby STEM team, Never Such Innocence and Blesma/Making Generation R. **See timetable on the next page*

Rhondda Taf Council was one of the first local authorities in Wales to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant in 2012, a commitment that was reaffirmed in 2018.

For further information relating to Armed Forces in Cwm Taf, please contact Jamie Ireland (Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officer) on 07747485619 or email Armedforces@rctcbc.gov.uk.

**Continues
on the
next
page....**

Month of the Military Child event

“The Council is supporting Month of the Military Child as we recognise the important role that military children play in the Armed forces community and the community in which they live. [...]”

This Council continues its trailblazing support of our Armed Forces, past and present, and will be uniting its military children through a day of online activities.

Our Armed Forces serving personnel, veterans, reservists and their families are all valued members of our communities, and we thank them for their service and the sacrifices made to keep our country safe.”

Councillor Maureen Webber, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council Deputy Leader and Armed Forces Champion

Age	Time	What’s going on?	What to bring
Up to 8 years old*	10am-11am <i>Join from 9:55am</i>	<u>Let’s get moving!</u> Led by Forces Fitness , this session looks at how to stay healthy and keep fit. Expect to be up out of your seat and moving around! We’ll also have some great games and a quiz. Get ready for fun and fitness mixed into one!	- A bottle of water - Lots of energy!
8-13 years old*	11:15am-12:45pm <i>Join from 11:10am</i>	<u>Dragon’s Den style aircraft session!</u> Led by the RAF Coningsby STEM team , this session gets you designing your very own aircraft! You’ll learn about engines, cockpits and aerodynamics and will compete to create the best flying machine!	- A piece of paper - A pen or pencil - Colours
8-12 years old*	1pm-2pm <i>Join from 12:55pm</i>	<u>Poetry power</u> Led by Never Such Innocence , this session will get you writing your very own poem! You’ll have a great guide who will take you through the poetry writing process from start to finish!	- A piece of paper - A pen or pencil - Creativity!
12-16 years old*	2pm-3pm <i>Join at 2pm</i>	<u>Adversity and resilience!</u> Led by Blesma and Making Generation R , this session focuses on being resilient. We’ll have fascinating and inspiring talks from injured veterans who have gone on to achieve incredible things.	- An open mind - Questions about resilience

Vulnerable Groups Team

Minority Ethnic, English as Additional Language (EAL), Gypsy Roma Travellers, Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Service children

What pupils do we support?

- Pupils who are from Minority Ethnic Backgrounds and Service children.

What do we do?

- Provide education and learning, support and advice for pupils, families and schools to ensure that pupils engage successfully in school life and learning.

How can you access support?

- [Use this link](#) to find out more about us and see our contact details.

Our current focus for Service children

- Leading Service children's network meetings to discuss effective practice, use of funding and school's support needs
- Supporting new Service children arriving in Powys
- Networking with the SSCE Cymru RSLO and Armed Forces organisations to develop an understanding of the needs of families and children, awareness of activities and support available
- Development of an English as Additional language induction resource for families and schools.

Sarah Court, Specialist Teacher for Vulnerable Groups - Powys County Council



Llanbedr CiW School celebrate Month of the Military Child

Throughout the month of April, we saw schools across Wales celebrate Month of the Military Child. One school in particular, Llanbedr CiW School in Powys, carried out a number of activities to celebrate and raise awareness of experiences of Service children to peers, teachers and the school community, and received fantastic feedback from parents and children.

For further information, read our [new case study](#) that highlights the good practice of Llanbedr CiW School.

"Ellie absolutely loved being made to feel so special and being given the opportunity to share her Dad's military background and her life so far with her new friends. It's not something she has ever been given the chance to do before so we thank Llanbedr CiW School for welcoming us as a military family with open arms."

Mother of Service child



Month of the Military Child
Mis y Plentyn Milwrol

April/Ebrill 2021 | #MilitaryChildMonthCymru

Service child from Torfaen is awarded Little Trooper of the Month

Each month, [Little Troopers](#) awards a Service child living in the UK the title of 'Little Trooper of the Month'. We were pleased to see Gregor, a 9 year-old Service child who attends New Inn Primary School in Torfaen, featured as [April's Little Trooper of the Month](#).

Not only is this a fantastic achievement for Gregor, his school and family to be proud of, but it also sets a wonderful example for other Service children and schools in Wales. Gregor was especially commended for setting up a club for the other Service children in his school, where they shared their experiences of being part of a military family, designed medals, created countdown jars, designed cards and created messages to share with their serving parents when they were deployed.

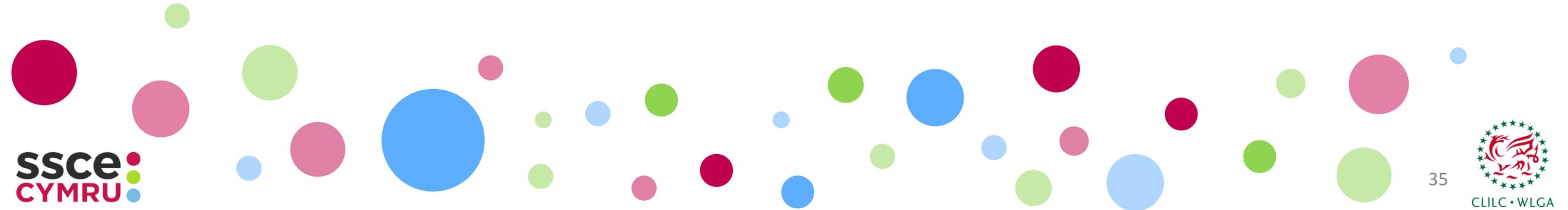
You can read more about the club Gregor started [here](#).





SSCE CYMRU NETWORK MEMBER UPDATES

OTHER NETWORK MEMBERS





Summer of fun

As part of our **Haf o Hwyl/Summer of fun** campaign, we've created an information hub on our website linking families to free events in their local areas.

These are activities that children and young people can take part in during the summer months.

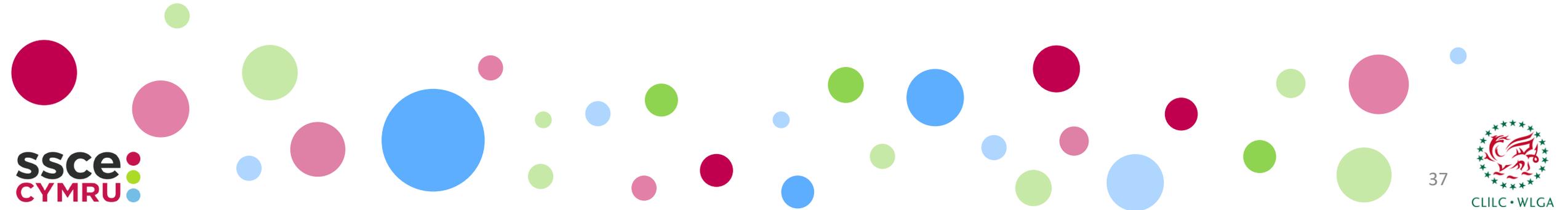
As well as signposting families to the right information sources based on their local authority, we've also included a section of activities that children and young people can do at home.

These ideas from our participation team will help children and young people to enjoy their right to play wherever they are.

For further information, visit www.childcomwales.org.uk/summer-of-fun-2021



FUNDING UPDATES



MOD – Education Support Fund (ESF)

Available across the UK to assist schools and local authorities in overcoming the challenges faced due to significant impact of the Armed Forces lifestyle.

The application deadline for 2021/22 is 30th September.

Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust – Forces for Change

Grants of up to £10,000 are available to support projects across the UK that either help integrate Armed Forces and civilian communities across the UK, and/or deliver valuable local services to the Armed Forces community.

The application deadlines for 2021 are 2nd August and 19th November.

Contact RSLOs for support and advice.

[Service children – funding guidance for schools in Wales](#)

For further information on these funding streams, visit the [SSCE Cymru website](#).

Welsh Government funding

2021/22

£200,000 will be distributed to the local authorities in Wales based on funding plans developed with the RSLOs and SSCE Cymru.
For further information on how the funds will be distributed and used, visit the [SSCE Cymru website](#).

LAs are encouraged to consider:

- LA and/or school collaboration
- The needs of their Service children
- Supporting schools who demonstrate good practice and are proactive in supporting their Service children
- Sustainable projects with a lasting impact to Service children
- How the impact could be monitored and measured.

SSCE Cymru resources summary

School
Toolkit

Tools

Good
practice
examples

Service
children's
experiences
films

Learning
Welsh films

Funding
guidance

Directory of
support

Newsletters

Service
children ALN
report

School survey
report

Listening to
our Service
children
report

Parent/carer
survey report

Family Federation magazines

Homeport

Naval Families
F E D E R A T I O N

Available [here](#).

Including information about the SSCE Cymru parent/carer survey findings report on p38.

Army & You

aff | army
families
federation

Available [here](#).

Including information about the SSCE Cymru parent/carer survey findings report on p45.

Envoy

**ROYAL
AIR FORCE
Families
Federation**

Available [here](#).

The Impact of Military Life on the Service Child



The Naval Children's Charity has commissioned the Veterans & Families Institute for Military Social Research at Anglia Ruskin University to research the challenges faced by military families in the UK.

Available [here](#).

Independent report celebrates positive impact of cadet forces



Ministry of Defence

Exciting new research into UK Cadet Forces highlights the positive impacts on young people's development, adult volunteers and wider society.

Available [here](#).

NSI Digital Winners Booklet



Available [here](#).

This year, over 3,100 children and young people from a staggering 99 countries, territories and dependencies submitted entries into the competition. The young people spoke about a wide variety of topics and showed deep empathy and understanding of how conflict affects others. The team and judges were incredibly moved by their powerful pieces and we hope you will be too. **We'd also like to highlight three winners who participated in creative workshops as part of our ['Voices of Armed Forces Children'](#) project. Please find their winning entries on pages 8 and 24.**



CASE STUDIES

SSCE Cymru has a suite of case studies on the [website](#), sharing examples of good practice in schools and local authorities across Wales.

NEW CASE STUDY:

[Llanbedr CiW School, Powys – Month of the Military Child activity](#)

To tell us about the work you are doing and how it has benefited your Service children or school community, please contact SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk

The next SSCE Cymru Newsletter will be circulated in Autumn 2021.
If you would like to contribute content to the next issue, please send it to SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk by 3rd September 2021.



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