

Newsletter

Autumn 2019

SSCE Cymru mission

Knowledge and evidence

Conduct and commission research into the experiences of Service children in education - to help identify where they experience additional challenges. Use the findings of research to frame the focuses and work of SSCE Cymru.

Activity and resources

Working with schools, local authorities, charities and support organisations to produce resources that will help professionals support Service children throughout their education.

Impacting policy and systems

Work with Welsh Government to ensure the mission of SSCE Cymru is understood. Provide evidence to recognise the impact policy has on Service children.



Armed Forces in Wales Awards

We are extremely pleased the Millie Taylor, the SSCE Cymru *All Wales Project Officer for Service Children in Education*, has been confirmed as one of the finalists in the Youth/Cadet Awards category. The winners of the four award categories will be announced at the Awards ceremony on 28th November.

SSCE Cymru school survey (2019) findings

Most significant challenges that Service children face

- Primary schools: the emotional impact of separation
- Secondary schools: 1) making friends and 2) missing curriculum content.

Most significant challenges schools face in supporting Service children

- Primary schools: 1) supporting Service children with their emotional and wellbeing needs and 2) understanding the Armed Forces Lifestyle
- Secondary schools: 1) supporting Service children with the gaps in their learning and 2) gaining information from a Service child's previous schools.

The most beneficial types of support schools offer to Service children

- 1) Tailored pastoral support and 2) having a dedicated member of staff to support their Service children.

Schools from the four Key LAs that have obvious links to the military community (Isle of Anglesey, Powys, The Vale of Glamorgan, Pembrokeshire) were more aware of the challenges their Service children face in education, in comparison to schools in all Local authorities in Wales, yet they felt less equipped to support them.

A substantial percentage of schools have put specific interventions in place to support their Service children or referred them for Mental Health and Wellbeing support. Many of these schools had issues meeting the prioritisation threshold, presenting disadvantage to Service children.

The full survey findings report can be found here: www.SSCECymru.co.uk/surveys

SSCE Cymru surveys: Service child and Parent/carer of SC

These surveys will be circulated by the end of October. Please help us to promote them within your own networks.

New website

Will be launched in November 2019!



New SSCE Cymru Toolkits (school and parents)

Two new SSCE Cymru Toolkits are currently being developed – due to be launched by the end of 2019. They will include information tailored to the audience on some of the following topics:

- Armed Forces in Wales
- Service children's experiences
- Education in Wales
- Examinations and assessments
- Admissions and mobility
- Funding for schools
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Youth Provision.

The SSCE Cymru Toolkits will include case studies of good practice examples, signposting to organisational support and new SSCE Cymru Tools (including templates and checklists).

SSCE Cymru Stakeholder day (19th September)

Venue: Maindy Barracks, Cardiff

The third Stakeholder day was a great success, with over 50 delegates participating in the discussions and workshops. Thank you to all that attended!

Agenda items:

- SSCE Cymru updates – data collection, funding, new resources, school survey findings, planned surveys
- AFF – Service children survey
- DCYP – MoD update, MoD LAP
- SCiP Alliance – update, plans for SCiP Alliance Hub Cymru
- SSCE Cymru – regional roles proposal
- Mental Health and Wellbeing support – CAMHS, Case management proposal
- Welsh Government – impact of the new curriculum in Wales
- Workshops – new SSCE Cymru resources.

Copies of the presentations and notes will be circulated to those that attended or sent their apologies.

Next Stakeholder day

Date: (TBC) March 2019

Venue: (TBC) North Wales

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

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:

www.SSCECymru.co.uk/contact-ssce

Funding updates



Supporting Service Children in Education - Wales Fund (SSCE-WF)

The deadline was **30th September 2019**. For the second year running, Welsh Government have provided £250,000 to support the children of Armed Forces personnel in Wales.

The fund will be administered by SSCE Cymru.

- Funding should be used to support Service children overcome the challenges they face in education as a result of their Armed Forces lifestyle
- Schools are encouraged to work collaboratively to submit cluster bids
- All maintained schools in Wales with at least one Service child enrolled are eligible to apply for the grant

Applicants will be informed of the success, or otherwise, of their application by 31 October 2019. Payments will be made by end December 2019.



Ministry
of Defence

Education Support Fund (ESF)

The deadline was **30th September 2019**.

The ESF is open to publicly funded schools, Academies and Free Schools in the UK attended by Service children. With a focus on mitigating the effects on those Service children whose parents are subject to frequent mobility/deployment.

DCYP will inform all applicants of the result/outcome of their application by early January 2020. Payments will be made no later than 5 April 2020.



ARMED FORCES
COVENANT

Small grants (under £20,000)

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly.

Under the Armed Forces Covenant Local Grants programme, grants of up to £20,000 are available for local projects that support community integration or local delivery of services.

School success in Wales (2019):

- St Giles Primary School – 'Building Blocks: Resilience and Wellbeing'
- Ysgol Maes Garmon – 'Our school, our community'
- Mount Street Nursery and Infant School – 'Community outdoor classroom'
- Crickhowell High School – 'Boosting the Wellbeing of Service Children'

The next application deadline is **2nd December 2019**.

For further details, visit www.covenantfund.org.uk/local-grants-and-digital-development-programme/

SSCE Cymru Network updates

Education



A not-for-profit organisation that works in partnership with schools to improve outcomes for all children and young people. The roll out of the bilingual Schools Programme was supported by Welsh Government in 2013-14. Last year three new programmes were launched in Wales. Currently around 52

schools in Wales are accessing one of the following programmes:

- Achieving Schools Programme
- Achieving Wellbeing and Developing Core Strength
- Achieving Wellbeing for Looked After Children
- Emotion Coaching.

Schools receive on-going coaching support and training throughout the year and 24/7 access to the online learning portal for all staff.

For more information about any of these programmes which support service children in education, contact: Amanda Jones, Country Lead for Wales Amanda.jones@afaeducation.org

www.afaeducation.org.uk

Armed Forces organisations

Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) – Childcare hours



Ministry
of Defence

30 hours free childcare overseas and within the United Kingdom – the MoD funds the free childcare entitlement, and prior to being posted back to the UK, parents should visit www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare to find out what their entitlement will be and what they need to do to apply. England, Scotland, Wales

and Northern Ireland offer differing entitlements and the application process may vary.

Wales provides 30 hours a week of free early education and childcare for working parents of children aged 3 and 4 years for 48 weeks of the year. Applications are dealt with directly by each Local Authority's Family Information Service (FIS) where the parents reside, www.gov.wales/findyour-local-family-information-service

The RAF Families Federation exists to represent all serving RAF personnel, whether married, in a partnership or single and their families. Represent them to Ministers, senior MoD and Defence personnel and networks and local government bodies around the UK. In addition, they can offer help and advice to those supporting Service personnel, families and children.

RAF FF website

Offers a single point of information on a wide range of topics. You can subscribe for free, to the RAF FF magazine 'Envoy' or weekly e-bulletin which rounds up RAF FF news and that of defence more widely. www.raf-ff.org.uk

Life in Wales

RAF FF are keen to better understand and represent families in Wales and have recently published their first Briefing Paper on life as an RAF Family in Wales, offering an overview of all the advantages and challenges this can bring. The paper can be found here: www.raf-ff.org.uk/news/being-an-raf-family-living-in-wales/

Contact RAF FF

Get in touch via enquiries@raf-ff.org.uk or use the 'report an issue' button on the website. A large proportion of the enquiries and issues RAF FF receive are about the education of Service children, whether that be difficulties with gaining a school place, what extra support might be available and issues surrounding supporting children with SEND. This anonymised evidence allows RAF FF to represent families and personnel more effectively whilst trying to effect policy change.

Naval Service Family and People Support (NS FPS)



Royal Navy Royal Marine Welfare (RNRMW) has been renamed and rebranded as the Naval Service Family and People Support (NS FPS). Since 1977, the RNRMW has been looking after the wellbeing of the serving members of the Naval Service and their families, wherever they live in UK and Overseas. NS FPS continues to keep sailors, marines and their families as their top priority.

The combined workforce of civilian and military staff boasts a range of qualifications, skills and experience; well versed in agility and coping in pressured circumstances.

Changing the name from RNRMW to NS FPS comes firmly in line with Second Sea Lord Vice-Admiral Nick Hine's drive to modernise, mobilise and transform Navy Command so ensuring its readiness to deal with the challenges of the future.

Making Generation R

The Making Generation R programme supports injured veterans to take their inspiring stories about overcoming adversity into schools across the UK. Over 23,000 students have already benefitted from a free workshop.

To book a free workshop to inspire resilience in school, contact: info@makinggenerationr.com
www.blesma.org/how-we-help/making-generation-r



Gives children and young people a voice on conflict through a poetry, art, song and speech competition. Their aim is to provide empowerment and development of emotional wellbeing through a creative process, to equip young people with the tools to find their own voices and reinforce that their opinions and responses are as important as those of the adults around them. This October Never Such Innocence is coming to North Wales! Their completely free community event is a brilliant collaboration of young people from different schools and educational settings. All schools across Wales are invited. For more,

information, contact enquiries@neversuchinnocence.com or visit www.neversuchinnocence.com.



**THE
POPPY
FACTORY**

getting you back to work

Supporting veterans with families into employment

Veterans with health conditions who have families and would like support getting back to work are encouraged to contact The Poppy Factory.

The charity has a network of advisers in Wales who are on hand to work with ex-Forces men and women in their communities, building links with local employers and helping veterans find and move into new jobs that suit their families' situations.

For support from the Poppy Factory, contact: 020 8939 1837, gybtw@poppyfactory.org or register online at www.poppyfactory.org.

Local authorities



STRONG HERITAGE | STRONG FUTURE
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
TREFTADAETH GADARN | DYFODOL SICR

HM Forces Engagement Support Officer

www.wicid.tv/info/service-children-support

Jason Hurford has been busy supporting schools with a number of activities and events:



Many schools have conducted transition days to support young people transitioning from primary to secondary school with team building activities days. Supporting some of the young people to feel comfortable with their new school and helping them make more friends prior to leaving school for the summer holidays.

All RCT schools have been busy with day trips and activities.





Pontypridd Armed Forces Day was a great success with young people donning the camouflage cream and getting involved in the activities.

Emergency Services Day at Tonyrefail.



Jason has also been supporting the Transition Support Workers in schools, giving advice and guidance to year 11 leavers and other young people who are potentially going to be taking up employment with Her Majesties Forces or going to college to study Public Services with MPCT and other courses across South Wales.

Schools



Prendergast CP School – VC Gallery project

Mr Clarke (Assistant Headteacher) and Barry John (VC Gallery) are very keen to ensure that the most vulnerable Armed Forces families, parents and children are able to access the valuable support and community that the VC Gallery can offer.

The first session was essentially a test run, a wide net that brought in many families. The breakfast sessions continued until the end of the Summer Term.

The children and parents ate breakfast together and collaborated on artwork. The gallery manager, spoke to the audience about the accessibility of the Gallery to the children and parents through summer holidays and the services and community that the Gallery can offer to them as Forces families.





Llantwit Major School
Ysgol Llanilltud Fawr



Llantwit Major High School – MPCT Gold Expedition

A group of eight of our Year 8 students attended an expedition day at MPCT Rhymney as a culmination of a Leadership course that they have been following all year. The students, mostly Service children, started in September following the Bronze Award Level Leadership Course and then progressed through to Silver and finally Gold. Throughout the course they have completed primarily physical tasks designed to encourage them to work together as a team, solving problems and developing their leadership skills.

The students were kitted out and introduced to the assault course by the Staff and given a demonstration. The assault course included up and under bars, a 10ft wall, balance beams, a 6ft wall, monkey bars and finished with the 'trapezium', a huge structure made from scaffolding poles which the students had to climb up, crawl along the top and descend down a rope to finish. Llantwit High School pupils showed how well they work as a team and how determined they are and won the race!



For more information on the MPCT programmes, visit: www.mpct.co.uk

Other network members



**Comisiynydd
Plant Cymru**

Children's
Commissioner
for Wales

Student Ambassador Events

At the start of every academic year, the Children's Commissioner for Wales hold events for Super Ambassadors to meet the Children's Commissioner, learn about their rights and take part in workshops to help them understand their role as Ambassadors.

Teachers attending can explore how to support the scheme, share good practice and how to develop a children's rights approach in school. There are six free events across Wales, which can be attended by one member of staff and two pupils from each school. All workshops are available in English or Welsh, children will be grouped based on their preferred language.

Find out more and book a place at one of the events here: www.childcomwales.org.uk



Gwasanaethau Gwybodaeth i Deuluoedd
Family Information Services

The 22 Local authority Family Information Services across Wales now provide up to date information about the range of childcare and family support services available for each local authority area.

The new site allows parents to find childcare services in their area by searching for the type of service and the facilities they are looking for, including things like school pickup, current vacancy status and language preference.

The site also signposts to local Family Information Services, with web links and contact numbers, so parents can access direct local support if they need it.

www.fis.wales

Resources



CLILC • WLGA

Armed Forces Covenant Films

Learn more about what local authorities in Wales are doing in relation to the Covenant.

www.covenantwales.wales/cas-e-studies



Army & You magazine

The latest edition is available here:

<http://bit.ly/avaut19>



MENTALLY HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Brings together quality-assured information, advice and resources to help primary schools understand and promote children's mental health and wellbeing. www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk



Remembrance Day lesson plans

The Legion lesson plans commemorate the First World War generation – those who served, sacrificed, and changed our world.

www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/teaching-remembrance/remembrance-lesson-plans



First World War resources

Educational resource, along with helpful lesson plans covering a broad range of topics, a fun quiz to use with the resource, and tips on getting started with producing poetry and art.

www.neversuchinnocence.com/first-world-war-resources

Upcoming events



Re-Opening of the Royal British Legion Wrexham Community Hub Space North Arcade, The Peoples Market Wrexham 8th October 12:30-13:30



ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Llwyddiant i Bawb

Schools Education Network Event

Cardiff, 1 Kingsway, Cardiff City centre
Thursday 17th October 13:30- 15:30

The focus of this term's event will be Emotion Coaching in Schools. School representatives will have the opportunity to engage in a hands-on workshop 'Introducing the Concept of Emotion Coaching'. Delegates will also be able to find out more about Achievement for All's (AfA) 'Achieving Wellbeing' and 'Emotion Coaching' programmes and hear a presentation from an AfA school. It will also include networking opportunities for delegates to discuss key issues, make new contacts and take away ideas to support their own practice.

To book your FREE place at this event click [here](#).



the
Armed Forces
charity

Exmoor Family Break 21st-25th October

FREE mid-week residential adventure break for military families to attend together with their children aged between 5-18 years who have additional needs and/or disabilities.

Deadline for applications is 19th August.

For more information, visit www.ssafa.org.uk/short-breaks

Contact: ANDA@ssafa.org.uk, 0207 463 9411



Practitioner's Conference

Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh
Tuesday 5th November 9:00-16:15

Looking at the life journeys of children and young people from Armed Forces families, the conference will include presentations from leading professionals, market stalls, good practice case studies and young peoples' voices. It will also include networking opportunities for delegates to discuss key issues, make new contacts and take away ideas to support their own practice.

For more information, visit www.rcet.org.uk/rcet-conference-supporting-confident-journeys/

Armed Forces Community Covenant Forums and Events

Ceredigion Armed Forces Community Covenant

Ceredigion
7th October 10:00-13:00

Wrexham Armed Forces Community Covenant Meeting

The Guildhall, Wrexham
15th October 10:00

Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group Meeting

Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale
15th October 10:00

Gwynedd Armed Forces Community Covenant Meeting

Ystafell Llyfni, Pencadlys y Cyngor, Stryd y Jêl, Caernarfon
21st October 10:00-12:00

Denbighshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership

Denbighshire County Council
6th November 10:30-12:30

Gwynedd Armed Forces Community Covenant Meeting

Ystafell Llyfni, Pencadlys y Cyngor, Stryd y Jêl, Caernarfon
9th December 10:00-12:00

Anglesey Armed Forces Community Covenant Meeting

RAF Valley
12th December 10:30-12:30

Conwy Armed Forces Community Covenant Meeting

D Company Royal Welsh, Army Reserve Centre,
Colwyn Bay
13th December

University Health Board Armed Forces Forums

Swansea Bay University Health Board Armed Forces Forum

Boardroom, Neath Port Talbot hospital
17th October 13:00-16:00

Hywel Dda Armed Forces Forum and Armed Forces Covenant Regional Steering Group

The Dalton VC Centre, Freemans Way, Haverfordwest
21st October 10:30-13:00

Case studies

See examples of good practice here:
www.SSCECymru.co.uk/case-studies

We are always looking for examples of how schools are supporting their Service children. To tell us about the work you are doing and how that has benefited your pupils or school community, please contact SSCE@wlga.gov.uk.



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The next SSCE Cymru Newsletter will be circulated in the Winter 2019. If you would like to contribute content to the next issue, please send it to SSCE@wlga.gov.uk by 29th November.