

Newsletter

Autumn 2020

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.



Regional School Liaison Officers (RSLOs) for Service children

In collaboration with 160th (Welsh) Brigade, the WLGA has secured funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust to introduce four RSLOs in Wales.

The RSLOs are hosted by four lead local authorities, the Isle of Anglesey, Newport, Pembrokeshire and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Focusing on supporting schools to understand the needs of Service children and embed activities to ensure sustainable support systems, some of the activities that are included within the RSLOs workplan include:

- Supporting local authorities with identifying the number and location of Service children in Wales
- Supporting schools with accessing funding and identifying ways to measure the impact
- Identifying ways schools can be more Armed Forces friendly
- Case managing Service children mental health and wellbeing support/specific interventions
- Collaborating with regional Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officers (AFLOs)
- Supporting production of new SSCE Cymru resources.

For further details about the RSLO roles and contact details please visit the [SSCE Cymru website](#).

SSCE Cymru data collection

SSCE Cymru is currently aware of around 2,200 Service children in around 430 schools in Wales. We are currently working with local authorities to establish the best way to capture data in 2020.

Why we need data:

- Welsh Government has committed £200,000 for the academic year 2020/21 to go to schools to support their Service children.
- The four new RSLOs, can work with schools that have identified Service children, to develop knowledge, embed good practice and support access to relevant grant funding and training opportunities.
- SSCE Cymru can use the data to better understand the needs of Service children in Wales and support policy change where required.
- Accurate data will be beneficial to many other organisations that form part of the SSCE Cymru network.

Covid-19 support

The SSCE Cymru website includes a Covid-19 support page, which provides information/advice/guidance and signposting to organisations and resources that are relevant to supporting Service children during the Coronavirus pandemic. The information provided may be beneficial to schools/education settings, local authorities and parents/carers of Service children.

In addition, the following content has recently been added:

- Activities that have been carried out or are taking place through SSCE Cymru
- School observations on the impact of Covid-19 on Service children
- Examples of support provided by schools to Service children
- Examples of ways schools plan to support their Service children during the recovery period.

www.SSCECymru.co.uk/schoolsandlocalauthorities/covid19support

Parent/carer of Service child/ren survey

Over the past year SSCE Cymru has carried out a school survey and discussion groups with Service children. See the [SSCE Cymru website](#) for the findings of these activities.

SSCE Cymru would now like to give parents/carers of Service children the opportunity to share their experiences about living in/moving to Wales, the impact their lifestyle has on their children's education and the support they have received from schools.

We would be interested to hear from parents/carers of Service children who are currently or have previously served in the Armed Forces as well as those that are currently living or have previously lived in Wales.

The survey will close on Friday 30th October.

Please help us to promote the survey by sharing within your own networks and contacts.

[SSCE Cymru Service parent/carer survey](#)

For more information on the SSCE Cymru programme please see www.SSCECymru.co.uk and follow [@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](#).

Funding updates

SSCE Cymru funding guidance

Members of the SSCE Cymru Network produced this document to provide schools and local authorities in Wales with information about the funding streams available, along with advice on completing the application forms. The advice comes from members of the funding panels, as well as schools and local authorities that have been successful in applying for the grants.

The guidance document was initially produced in 2019 and has recently been updated to reflect details of the funds available for 2020/21.

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

Welsh Government funding



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Welsh Government Education Minister has committed £200,000 for schools to support Service children in the 2020/21 academic year. The WLGA is currently working with:

- 1) The Welsh Government – to establish how these funds will be prioritised and distributed
- 2) Local authorities – to capture data on Service children to ensure the funds are distributed fairly across Wales.

Welsh Government announcement: [£250,000 fund to support service children in schools across Wales](#)

MOD funding



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence (MOD) – Education Support Fund (ESF) (2021)

£3m available across the UK to support schools and local authorities to overcome the challenges they face in supporting Service children as a result of significant mobility and/or deployment.

Application deadline: 7th October 2020.

Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

Armed Forces Covenant Fund: Force for Change programme

A local grants programme, awarding grants up to £20,000 to projects supporting Armed Forces communities to become less isolated and engage more in their local area.

Application deadline: 30th November 2020.

Forces Communities Together programme 2020/21

School/education project success in Wales includes:

- Glyn-Gaer Primary School – Forces Fitness and Friendships
- Palmerston Primary School – Palmerston together with Forces Fitness
- St Athan Primary School – Singing Together
- The VC Gallery – Armed Forces Art Attack.

See the full list of successful applications [here](#).



ARMED FORCES
COVENANT
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**Further information, guidance and advice is available at
www.SSCECymru.co.uk/SchoolsAndLocalAuthorities/funding**

SSCE Cymru Network updates

Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Welsh Government definition of a Service child:

A 'Service child' has parent(s) – or person(s) with exercising parental responsibility – who is/are Service personnel:

- In HM Regular Armed Forces
- In full commitment as part of the full-time Reserve service
- Is a veteran who has been in service within the last two years
- One of their parents died whilst serving in the Armed Forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.



Arolygiaeth El Mewrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

Community schools: families and communities at the heart of school life

The report focuses on highly effective approaches to community schooling taken by primary, secondary, all-age and special schools. With many of the recommendations being relevant to schools supporting their Service children and Armed Forces community.



In addition to the larger “classic” programmes, Achievement for All offers a new range of tightly focussed and responsive packages for schools to address the key professional development imperatives facing education settings today.

Including:

- Covid-19 Leadership Support. Deep leadership - Putting Wellbeing at the heart of Leadership... Looking after leaders
- Close the Gap
- Re-engaging Parents
- Wellbeing at the Heart of Learning.

For further programme information about supporting Service Children through strong and passionate leadership as well as a positive culture which prioritises Wellbeing for achievement, contact

Amanda.jones@afaeducation.org

www.afaeducation.org

Armed Forces organisations



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Armed Forces Covenant: annual report 2019

Available [here](#). The report includes a section on education (pages 35-37).

Armed Forces in Wales Awards 2020

Due to the ongoing situation with COVID 19 the Bde Comd has made the decision to cancel this year's awards ceremony planned for November. Already submitted nominations will roll over to 2021 for consideration.



Voices of Armed Forces Children: Never Such Innocence is inviting Service children to have their voices heard through poetry, art, speech and song. Exciting opportunities will be available for those who participate!
Visit www.neversuchinnocence.com for more information.

National Army Museum Poetry Workshop: On October 29th, 2020 at 10:30 and 13:30, Never Such Innocence will be holding two poetry workshops for children 8+ with Never Such Innocence Poet in Residence and Army Veteran, Clive Sanders at the National Army Museum, London. Spaces are limited.

To sign up, contact ks@neversuchinnocence.com

International Poetry, Art, Speech and Song Competition: The 2020/21 [competition](#) is now open! Young people aged 9-18 are invited to create work on the theme, *Unheard Voices of Conflict: Stories from Around the World*. Entry is free and can be done online.
The deadline to enter is 19th March 2021.

Workshops for Schools: Never Such Innocence offer schools across the UK free workshops to help pupils create brilliant pieces of work to enter into their international competition. Workshops are facilitated by experienced poetry, speech and song writing professionals who are DBS checked.
To request a workshop, contact enquiries@neversuchinnocence.com.



Ministry
of Defence

Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) Top tips for supporting children of Service families:

- Take time to understand and better appreciate the impact of Service life on children and young people, their development, and their long-term well-being.
- Acknowledge each child and young person as an individual. Acknowledge their past achievements and experiences but also be mindful of the impact your actions may have when they move next. How can you help prepare them for transition into a different school, country or curriculum?
- Be prepared for potential mood or behaviour changes in children, young people and their parents when a separation is due or occurring.
- Know how to actively listen and respond to tricky questions appropriately without giving false assurances.
- Don't force children and young people to talk if they don't want to but make sure that they know you or someone else is available should they want to talk.
- Be prepared for a potential drop in attainment following a transition or during a separation and acknowledge this will most likely be temporary.
- Be aware that some children and young people may have to take on a young carer's role and this might have an impact on completing homework and getting to school on time. Show an understanding and possibly offer time during the school day for studying or homework to be completed.
- Don't expect everything to return to 'normal' when an absent parent returns as readjustment can take a long time.

[CEAS](#) is a team provided by the MOD to provide educational advice and information to Service families and also offer professional educational advice to the welfare network.

For further information or support, contact DCYP-CEAS-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk



Ministry
of Defence

The Welsh Army Welfare Service (AWS) team in Pembrokeshire have been busy over the summer providing young people across the area with a range of engaging activities designed to be fun, safe and mood enhancing.

Up to 120 young people across the military community accessed specially designed resource packs along with step by step video links, professionally created to support the young artists in creating their lockdown masterpieces. To celebrate young people's work, the AWS intend to compile a book whereby, everyone involved will have a copy, which will be a positive lasting memory of these unusual times.



The Reading Force charity gives free books and special scrapbooks to Forces children of all ages, to encourage Forces families (serving, veterans and reservists) to share books, chat about them and fill in a scrapbook.

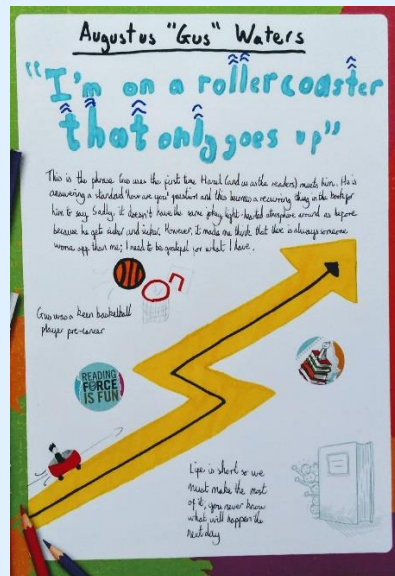
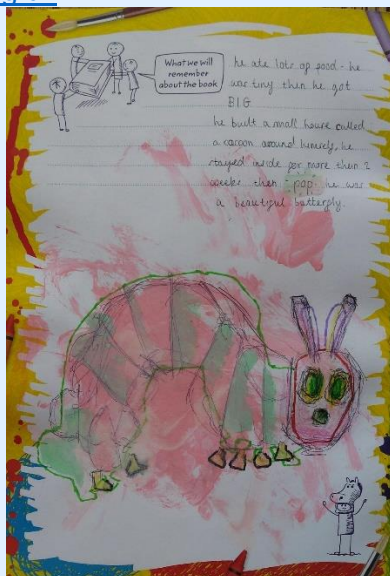
It is available to all Forces families, at home or away. It is especially useful when a parent is separated from children due to deployment or training as a way of staying close, and to keep in touch with grandparents who may be shielding and extended family living far away and helps family stay connected.

"This is a brilliant scheme. You sent my daughter a book that she wouldn't normally have read and now she wants to read other books by the same author. Thank you!"

Reading Force resources are free and can be given to families by schools, welfare settings, and community groups as part of their pastoral support.

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

www.readingforce.org.uk





Ministry
of Defence

Army Welfare Services – Armed Forces Covenant Fund success

The Community Development Worker (CDW) at MOD St Athan has been successful in applications for two funding bids.

One project is for outdoor Micro Mini Pods which will enable many activities to be undertaken. The second is a Box project for Arts and Crafts and workshops. Engaging with Ignite who will be undertaking the activities and project workshops and will provide artists and videos.

Local authorities



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council

During the early part of lockdown, the Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officer (AFLO) worked with the local authorities to put out a 'Happy Birthday' message to Captain Tom Moore. Ceredigion Children's Centre for key workers, including Service children, produced these lovely cards.



Schools



Armed Forces Covenant Fund success

In collaboration with the Army Welfare Service (AWS) Community Development Worker in Brecon, Brecon High school have secured funding for a garden project, outdoor area, and cookery activities. Activities will include purchasing of ingredients and resources to make Christmas cakes and purchasing laptops and tablets.

AWS have also secured funding for kitchen improvements in the Community Centre, installing electricity into the Centre, two new cookers, tables and an outdoor shelter to enable sessions to be undertaken outdoors.

Other network members

Having



successfully pioneered many innovative initiatives to strengthen family ties for prisoners and their families, HMP Parc in Bridgend, has recently appointed its own Schools and Prison Family Coordinator, Julie Williams. Part of Julie's new role will be to cultivate new and existing relationships between Veterans and their families whose children are a unique group of young people with a unique set of needs. For further information, contact: julie.williams@uk.g4s.com

University of
South Wales
Prifysgol
De Cymru

Creative Forces Days at the University of South Wales

For many years, the University of South Wales has supported Regular, Reserve and ex-armed forces personnel to gain accredited and internationally recognised qualifications. In 2018, the University was awarded the prestigious MOD Employer Recognition Scheme Gold award, for its exemplary work in supporting and offering academic opportunities to past and present military personnel.

During the autumn term, the Widening Participation Team at the University of South Wales will be hosting an online outreach event offering exciting, interactive and engaging sessions, to support Service children living in South Wales. The event programme will be confirmed shortly. For further information, and to register your interest, please contact schoolsandcolleges@southwales.ac.uk

When it is safe to do so, the children and their parents will be invited to a follow-up [Creative Forces Day](#), held at one of the University's campuses. At this event, children and their parents can take part in additional sessions and will have the opportunity to find out what life at university is really like.



'They say that an army marches on its stomach ...'

In Feeding My Army, military wife and TV cook Beca Lyne-Pirkis showcases delicious food designed to keep us all going. From wartime hardship meals to fayre fit for a prime minister, every page delivers recipes inspired by her family's experience of over a hundred years of army life.

Chapters include:

- Make do and dig for victory
- Cookhouse classics
- Rations reinvented
- Keep the home fires burning
- Solo suppers
- Posting abroad
- Homecoming
- In memoriam.

For further information, contact sue@gomer.co.uk

Resources



Homeport

The latest edition is available here: <https://nff.org.uk/homeport-magazine/>



Army & You magazine

The latest edition is available here: <https://bit.ly/AYsum20>



Envoy

The latest edition is available here: <https://www.raf-ff.org.uk/publications/envoy-magazine/>

Case studies

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

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

Upcoming events



SCiP Alliance Conference 2020

Tuesday 20th October 2020 (9:00 - 16:30)

The SCiP Alliance Annual Conference will this year be held online, connecting practitioners, policy makers and researchers with an interest in the educational progression of children from Armed Forces families.

To book a place at the event, visit: www.scipalliance.org

The SSCE Cymru website now includes a calendar of events. Click [here](#) to see details of:

- Upcoming SSCE Cymru events
- Upcoming SSCE Cymru network member events
- Upcoming Armed Forces Forums
- Upcoming University Health Board Armed Forces Forums
- Previous SSCE Cymru event details (including copies of agendas and presentations).

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



The next SSCE Cymru Newsletter will be circulated in the Winter 2020. If you would like to contribute content to the next issue, please send it to SSCE@wlga.gov.uk by 27th November.



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