

Newsletter

Spring 2021

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 Officer project



The [Regional School Liaison Officers \(RSLOs\) for Service children](#) in Wales have made significant progress with their workplan activities. Including:

- Planning a structure and conducting school meetings/visits
- Developing and delivering a CPD training package for educators
- Supporting local authorities with identifying [Service children](#)
- Working with local authorities to produce [funding plans](#)
- Developing a [case management](#) process for Service children interventions
- Enhancing SSCE Cymru engagement with Armed Forces organisations
- Implementing a social media strategy – resulting in a 312% increase of [SSCE Cymru Twitter](#) profile visits
- Engaging with and supporting schools to understand the needs of their Service children.

Month of the Military Child APRIL



April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, which highlights the important role Service children play in the Armed Forces community. It is a time to applaud Armed Forces families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome. SSCE Cymru would like to encourage education settings to carry out activities during this month to celebrate and raise awareness of the unique experiences this group of children and young people have and become a more Armed Forces-friendly environment.

SSCE Cymru will be running and participating in a number of activities during the Month of the Military Child, including a CPD training week and a Creative Forces Day – see the Upcoming events section below for further information.

Ways to get involved:

- Ideas of how schools can get involved are available on the [SSCE Cymru website](#)
- Add the above Month of the Military Child banner to your email signature
- Share the details of anything you do to celebrate Service children during April on social media. Remember to use the hashtag #MilitaryChildMonthCymru and tag [@SSCECymru](#) on Twitter.
- Engage with [@SSCECymru](#) on Twitter by liking, re-tweeting and commenting on our posts.

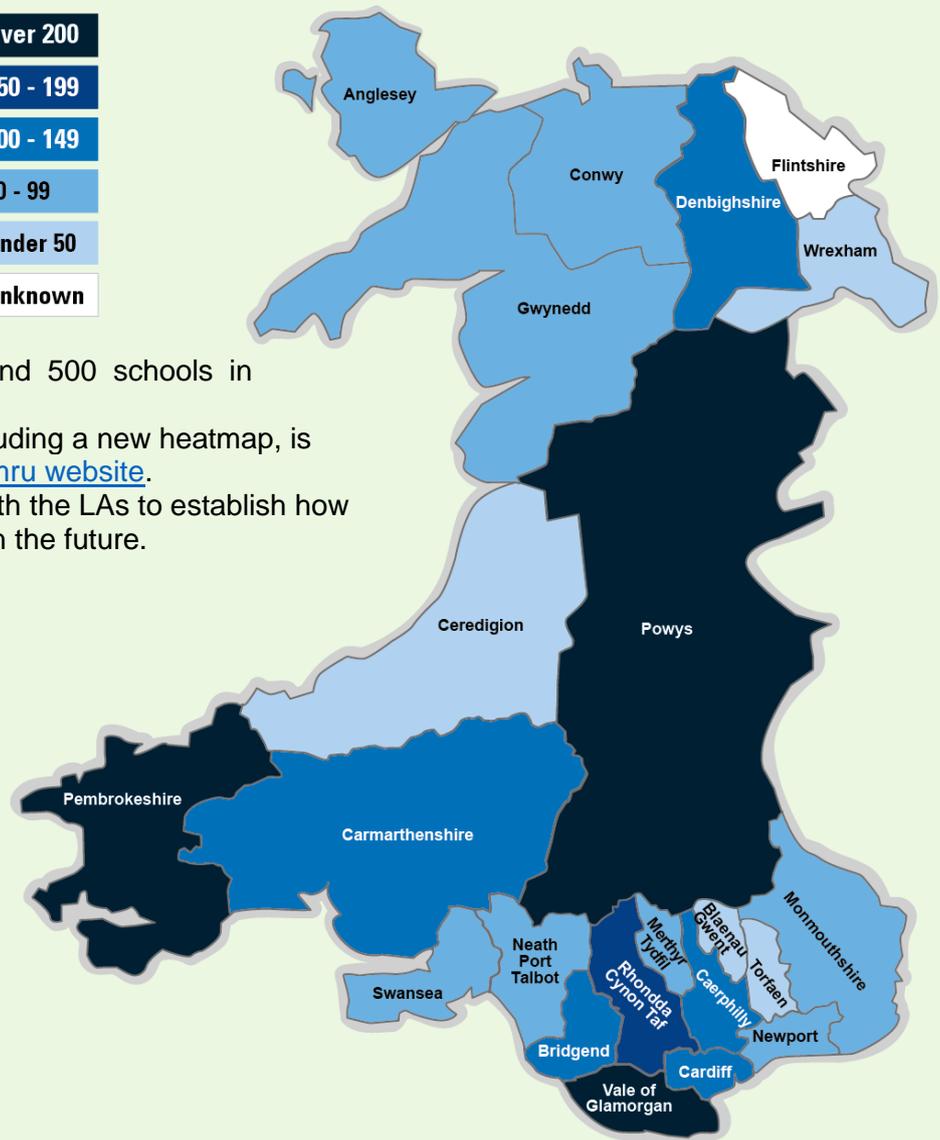
Service children data

SSCE Cymru and the RSLOs have been working with all 22 local authorities and independent schools to conduct a data collection activity, providing a snapshot of data on Service children as of March 2021.

The activity identified over 2000 Service children in around 500 schools in Wales.

The full breakdown of data, including a new heatmap, is now available on the [SSCE Cymru website](#).

The RSLOs are now working with the LAs to establish how they plan to maintain this data in the future.



Bringing Little Troopers to Wales



In collaboration with [Little Troopers](#), SSCE Cymru has secured funding from the [Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust](#) for a project which will:

- Provide all 400 primary schools in Wales that have Service children with a set of six books in English and Welsh from the [Little Troopers storybook series](#)
- Provide 75 primary schools in Wales that have Service children with a copy of the [Little Troopers Primary Wellbeing Course](#) template in English and Welsh
- Deliver a series of Little Troopers workshops with schools and Service children in Wales.

“As a charity, one of our aims is to ensure that all military children get fair and consistent support within their education setting, so this nationwide partnership in Wales means so much to us. It means that every single Service child in primary schools throughout Wales will have access to our Little Troopers storybooks; regardless of whether they are in a school alongside hundreds of other military children or they are the only one.”

Louise Fetigan, Founder of Little Troopers

Royal British Legion Centenary Art and Spoken Word Competition



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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](http://www.sscecymru.co.uk).

For more information on the SSCE Cymru programme please see 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

Service children CPD



Developed by the RSLOs and based on the content of the SSCE Cymru Toolkit, a training package is now available for schools and educators in Wales.

Throughout the week commencing 19th April, SSCE Cymru is offering all schools in Wales who have Service children enrolled an opportunity to participate in a two-hour Continuous Professional Development (CPD) session.

The session includes lots of opportunities for discussion, feedback and questions around the experiences of Service children, as well as actions that schools can take to embed good practice.

There will be 60 CPD sessions timetabled throughout the week with space for up to 15 participants at each. Sessions are available in both English and Welsh.

For further information and to book a place, visit the [SSCE Cymru website](http://www.sscecymru.co.uk).

Creative Forces Day

University of
South Wales
Prifysgol
De Cymru

The first Welsh Creative Forces Day event is being held virtually on Saturday 17th April. The event is being run in collaboration with the SCiP Alliance Hub Cymru, The University of South Wales and SSCE Cymru, and aims to promote Higher Education to Service children in Years 7, 8 and 9.

The event will involve interactive breakout challenges, a Q&A with current students who have an Armed Forces family, and information about supportive charities and organisations who can help Service families. There will also be a professional development session included for teachers

of Service children to attend.

For further information and to book a place, visit the [SSCE Cymru website](#).

Service Children's Progression
ALLIANCE



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 SSCE Cymru events
- Upcoming SSCE Cymru Network member events
- 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 SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk



SSCE Cymru Network member updates

Education

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 **Friday 16th April**.

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.



Project Vote

We are running a parallel election for young people aged 11-15 to coincide with the Senedd election in May 2021. Young people can take part through their school vote for the actual candidates in their school's constituency and region, learning more about the political process and how elections work.

We also have lesson plans available to use in the lead-up to the election, as well as free online events to explore topics in more detail.

To join the project and receive your e-ballot, please visit projectvote.wales

Coronavirus and Me 2

In January we asked children and young people in Wales to share their views and experiences of the latest Coronavirus lockdown through a survey. Almost 20,000 children aged between ages 3-18 took part.

The consultation has disclosed that life has been difficult for all age groups, and includes details about children and young people's:

- Emotional responses
- Loneliness
- Learning
- Inequalities

The report also highlights positives from the pandemic.

You can find the full report, and versions for children and young people [here](#).

Armed Forces organisations



Forces Fitness is a multi-award-winning company that provides a number of education and training programs, focusing on health, well-being and building resilience. They have worked with many

local authorities, schools, colleges and organisations across Wales on tailored programs to suit their needs. They can conduct sessions for all learners within your place of education and can run specifically-designed workshops for Service Children. They are here to build sessions around your vision and desired outcomes! The Forces Fitness team of qualified teachers and instructors has delivered sessions to over 130 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 well-being.

All members of the Forces Fitness team have a passion for health and wellbeing and improving their learners' lifestyles!

"Our program helps your attendees understand how to maintain a healthy body and healthy mind whilst building resilience – Our Staff firmly believe that Positivity breeds Positivity and we are here to inspire our future generation that they achieve great things!"

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



Primary School Provision – Supporting learning and personal development

The Young Leaders Programme (YLP) allows learners to develop a holistic approach to learning and personal development. The foundation of the programme is built upon active learning and diverse practical activities, allowing for unique learning experiences. Our friendly instructors generate intrigue targeting both academic and personal development through exciting activities, which are underpinned by a soft military ethos. Our ethos and curriculum equip and develop learners with the necessary key attributes to support positive development, both within school and as members of the community. The Young Leaders Programme allows primary schools the opportunity to broaden and differentiate their curriculum by implementing and utilising our exciting unique syllabus. The fundamental aspects of delivery and our pedagogy are based upon three distinct focus areas: cognitive development, happiness, health and wellbeing and personal and social development. This programme is already supporting a number of schools and Service children in Wales. Please click the link to view the prospectus or email youngleaders@mpct.co.uk to find out more or to arrange a phone call/meeting with the YLP Team.

[Young Leaders Prospectus](#)

RAF Valley COVID-19 Virtual Social Engagement Support Project

Dean Clarke, RAF Valley Community Development Officer

RAF Valley was awarded a grant of £6,225 from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust's Forces Communities Together programme, for a programme of online social activity for Armed Forces personnel and their families. This is to encourage social interaction and to reduce isolation.

During the current pandemic situation, providing a steady stream of support for all to access and take part in is very important in ensuring that they feel supported by and connected with the RAF Community. Taking on board the needs and suggestions of the Service community, a varied programme of activities is being delivered to support your families. This includes quizzes, virtual competitions and children's activities. The project also provides support packs for families with the aim of boosting morale.

This much-needed funding has provided a wide range of fun and engaging activities, which have included weekly Family Bingo and Halloween-themed activities. In addition, this funding has provided 10 mobile Wi-Fi hubs to improve the Wi-Fi connectivity in the Junior Ranks' accommodation, a pressing issue raised at the Junior Ranks' committee meetings.

All of the above has provided a steady stream of support to the Service families at RAF Valley, which has helped to reduce the impact of the lockdown isolation periods and ensure the community keeps connected.



RN FPS Virtual Community Activities

**ROYAL NAVY
FAMILY &
PEOPLE SUPPORT**

A professional dedicated support service for our people and their families



Royal Navy Family & People Support (RN FPS) offer a full programme of activities within their online platforms and virtually via Zoom and MS Teams for all Royal Navy Families wherever they reside worldwide. These include: deployment support groups, family entertainment sessions, book clubs, crafts for adults and children, information sessions, activity packs and lots more! To find out more and to get involved, visit our Facebook page 'Royal Navy Family & People Support' or join our Facebook Group 'RN FPS Community Activities'.



Woody's Lodge Charity

Woody's Lodge Charity is a social hub, which guides veterans to the help and support they need to re-engage with their families and communities. Our vision is to create an inviting meeting space for those who have served in the Armed Forces and Emergency Services, where they can receive expert support and advice, as well as have the chance to connect with new or old friends and family.

We also have a dedicated team, funded by the RNRMC, whose primary role is to connect with RN/RM personnel. The RNRMC Project team are based in South Wales, within the beautiful grounds of Amelia Trust Farm in Barry. We have a

dedicated transport service for our patrons, providing ease of access to our hub and services.

If you want a chat or need support, you can reach our team at:

Tel No: 01446 781792

Email: support@woodyslodge.org

Website: www.woodyslodge.org



Funding updates

Welsh Government – Service children funding



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Following the successful data collection activity, the Welsh Government's £200,000 *Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund* for the academic year 2020/21 has been distributed between all 22 local authorities (LA) in Wales. Each LA has worked with SSCE Cymru and their RSLO to develop a funding plan on how they will use the funds allocated to them. See the [SSCE Cymru website](#) for the breakdown of funding allocated to each LA and a summary of their funding plans.

MOD – Education Support Fund



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

An announcement is expected in early April 2021 for the ESF 2022.



Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust – Forces for Change



For the 2021/22 financial year, the [Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust](#) have announced a package of new programmes to support the Armed Forces community, focusing on post-Covid recovery.

The [Forces for Change programme](#) will be available for schools and local authorities to apply for up to £10,000 (previously £20,000) for projects to support Armed Forces communities to become less isolated and engage more in their local area.

Application deadlines for 2021 are:

- Midday 12th April
- Midday 2nd August
- Midday 19th November.

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

Resources



[SSCE Cymru Tools](#) are available for schools to download and are regularly updated to ensure that they are as current and relevant as possible. The tools which have recently been updated are:

- Tool 1: Checklist – school actions and activities
- Tool 4: Template letter to parents
- Tool 10: Promoting extra-curricular activities.

Service children: teachers' professional development guide



This report summarises the activity of a UK-wide 2020 working group, including SSCE Cymru, which reviewed materials being produced across the UK to help teachers improve their support for their Service children. The guide/report can be accessed on the [SCiP Alliance website](#).

Together across the Commonwealth



The Royal British Legion (RBL) supports the teaching of Remembrance across the UK and has designed a range of free teaching resources for use at school or in the home.

Exploring the concept of service before self, the resources examine the importance of Remembrance and its ongoing relevance.

The new Together Across the Commonwealth resources look at collaboration between Britain and the Commonwealth, from the 5 million volunteers who served alongside British troops in the Second World War, to the diversity of modern Britain today.

Available in English and Welsh on the [RBL website](#), these resources are ideal for classes, virtual student groups and home learning. These resources are a great way to prepare children/young people to take part in Remembrance this year.

Social Impact Resulting from Expenditure on Cadets



The Ministry of Defence (MOD), the Combined Cadet Force Association and CVQO have commissioned a study on the expenditure on cadets. The Institute for Social Innovation and Impact at the University of Northampton is undertaking a four-year study, designed to help understand the social impact of the spending on cadets and the Cadet Expansion Programme, as well as the benefits of the qualifications provided by CVQO. **The findings to date are available [here](#).**

Children's Health and Wellbeing Blog



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

Available [here](#), Director Sean Molino has written a blog to share his knowledge on how children can stay physically and mentally healthy.

Naval Families Federation Childcare Report 2021



This report aims to ensure that the voices, experiences and concerns that serving personnel and their families have about childcare in the Royal Navy have been accurately represented. In addition to families' feedback, the NFF has included lots of

relevant research in order to present the fullest picture. **The full report is available [here](#).**

RAF Families Federation Childcare Report 2021



With continuing attention from the RAF, policy makers and government, the RAF Families Federation wants to make sure that the voices of RAF families are heard and their experiences are used to inform decisions.

The full report is available [here](#).

RBL Wales Manifesto 2021



Ahead of the National Assembly for Wales election in May 2021, the RBL recently launched their Wales Manifesto, outlining key actions to improve the welfare and services of the Armed Forces community in Wales.

Available [here](#), the Manifesto calls for a commitment to permanent funding for SSCE Cymru and the Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Hwb

SSCE Cymru resources are now available on the [Welsh Government's Hwb website](#), which is a central site for free educational tools and materials for educators in Wales.



Little Troopers Newsletters

[Main newsletter](#)
[School newsletter](#)



Homeport

The latest edition is available [here](#)



Army & You magazine
The latest edition is available [here](#)



Envoy

The latest edition is available [here](#)
Including information about the SSCE Cymru parent/carer survey findings report on p25.

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: [Aneurin Bevan University Health Board – Priority support for Service children in CAMHS](#)

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 Summer 2021.
If you would like to contribute content to the next issue, please send it to SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk by 4th June 2021.



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