

Supporting Service Children in Education (SSCE) Cymru – project updates

Service children data collection update

SSCE Cymru wrote to over 1,500 schools in Wales, providing them with a template letter to send to parents, in order to identify Service children.

- 561 schools replied
- 173 schools had no Service children
- 388 schools identified a total of 1,905 Service children
- 185 of those schools had only 1-2 Service children
- Service children were identified in all 22 Local authorities in Wales.

SSCE Cymru school survey

Sent to all schools in Wales that identified they had Service children enrolled. Some of the findings from the 159 schools that fully or partially completed the survey included:

- The most common challenge Service children face in education is the emotional impact during separation and on the return of parent/s from deployment
- The most common challenges schools face in supporting Service children is understanding their emotional and wellbeing needs, followed by supporting them with gaps in the curriculum due to mobility and understanding the military lifestyle
- The most beneficial support offered by schools to Service children is tailored pastoral support, followed by having a dedicated member of staff to support Service children
- Over half of the schools would be interested in working collaboratively with other schools to support Service children
- The most popular resources that schools would like, in order to help them support their Service children, were funding guidance, toolkit/information packs and mental health and wellbeing information
- Over 90% of the schools indicated they would like to receive an information pack on how to support Service children in education
- Over half of the schools indicated their ALNCo and Headteacher would benefit from participating in training on how to support Service children
- The most popular types of training resource/package that schools would like is an information pack and a digital training package.

Service children support – funding workshop

On 26th June SSCE Cymru hosted a workshop to bring together organisations that administer funding avenues and schools and Local authorities that have had success in applying for these funds. The purpose of the workshop was to pull together a 'Service children support – funding guidance' document, which will give information about the funding that is available and provide advice on applications/bids. We hope this guidance document will be finalised and available on the SSCE Cymru website by 19th July.

New SSCE Cymru role: Service Children School and Community Engagement Officer

Sarah Court has been appointed in this role and will be joining SSCE Cymru for six months from 8th July. Sarah will be focusing on updating old and producing new SSCE Cymru resources to help schools support Service children. She will then be working on a training package to deliver to schools in Wales. Sarah can be contacted on ssce@wlga.gov.uk

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 be added to the SSCE Cymru Network they can sign up here: <http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/contact-ssce>

SSCE Cymru Network updates

Supporting Service Children in Education - Wales Fund (SSCEWF) – 2019/20

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 military 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
- The deadline for applications is **30th September 2019**.

New application forms and guidance documents will be available from mid-July here: <https://www.sscecymru.co.uk/supporting-service-children-in-wales-fund>



Education Support Fund (ESF)

Applications are now being accepted! The deadline is **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.

The 2020 application pack, including the application form and full instructions and guidance, can be found at gov.uk: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-support-fund-for-schools-with-service-children-grant-application-pack>

Directorate Children & Young People (DCYP)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/directorate-children-and-young-people>

SEND support

Anna Vrahimi, DCYP Asst Hd Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Services, wrote an article for the Army Families Federation online news section. The article refers to families moving back to the UK from overseas, however the content still gives advice to all parents with SEND children.

The AFF article can be found here: <http://armyandyou.co.uk/send-support-for-families/>

Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS)

CEAS plays an integral role in delivering the Directorate Children & Young People's (DCYP) vision that 'All our children and young people flourish and achieve their full potential'. They offer educational advice, guidance and support to Service families around such areas as school transition and admissions, 'retention of quarter' for educational reasons, Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) and SENA (Special Educational and/or additional Needs) and education overseas, as well as many other areas of concern, enquiry or need.

Contact CEAS for advice and support on DCYP-CEAS-ENQUIRIES@mod.gov.uk



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'
- Crickhowell High School – 'Boosting the Wellbeing of Service Children'.

The next application deadline is **9th September**.

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

Armed Forces in Wales Awards

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
- Covenant Award
- Youth/Cadet Award
- Sports Award.

The cut-off date for nominations is **6th September**. For further information or to request an application pack, contact Andrew.Williams935@mod.gov.uk

2019-20 'Year of the student voice'

Service children have unique contributions and challenges and the SCiP Alliance are working collaboratively to ensure that professionals hear directly from the young people themselves.

Inform SCiP Alliance about student voice initiatives happening in your area by contacting info@scipalliance.org

SCiP Alliance - Hub Cymru

The SCiP Alliance is partnering with SSCE Cymru and the University of South Wales to explore collaboration between schools, colleges, universities and local authorities across Wales in a SCiP Alliance Hub Cymru.

For more information, contact ross.hall@southwales.ac.uk



Armed Forces Covenant Report launched

On the 16th May the Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government, Hannah Blythyn, launched the first Wales Armed Forces Covenant Annual report. The report is available here: <https://gov.wales/armed-forces-covenant-annual-report-2018>



First Health Board in Wales to identify Service as a priority group

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board have responded to feedback from their Armed Forces Forum colleagues to enhance the offer of priority Healthcare for Veterans who are referred for health issues related to their Military Service as described in the 2017 Welsh Health Circular. They have agreed to fast track referrals to CAMHS services for the children of Armed Forces families. This supports their continued commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant. All referrals into Paediatric Services are screened to identify whether the referral is a child from an Armed Forces Family.



Forces Additional Needs and Disability Forum (FANDF)

FANDF is a tri-Service support group for family members who have a child or adult dependent with an additional need and/or disability or who has an additional need and/or disability themselves. The FANDF provides families and individuals with an opportunity to discuss ways of ensuring that children and adults have access to the best support from MOD and other professional bodies.

Membership is free and provides:

- The Additional Needs and Disability Guide
- The FANDF e-Newsletter
- An opportunity to attend our free biennial conference at the MOD and other regional FANDF events
- Information on topics of interest via email and the webpage.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.ssafa.org.uk/forces-additional-needs-disability-forum>

If you wish to become a member of the FANDF, contact ANDA@ssafa.org.uk



Military Child Wellbeing Course Template

Little Troopers have created everything a school needs to deliver this seven-session wellbeing course in a child friendly, military specific and interactive way.

Sessions:

1. Mindfulness
2. Belonging/Identity
3. Creative Writing
4. Separation/Deployment
5. Superhero's
6. Change
7. This is Me.

What is included:

- Intro booklet
- USB (loaded with 32 documents including invites, certificates, PowerPoints for every session, facilitator notes and activity sheets)
- A1 Map
- Stickers
- Bingo calling cards in pouch
- Floor Cards
- Charade Cards.

An introductory code (WB50) will give you £50 off the cost of the pack, making it just £100.

For more information, visit <https://www.littletroopers.net/blog/2019/06/19/our-fantastic-well-being-course-is-out-now/>



This award is a programme, run in partnership with schools for 6-14 year olds and is aimed at helping children and young people develop vital levels of confidence, resilience and self-belief.

The five key themes of the Prince William Award are:

1. Personal Development – Building a foundation of inner strength
2. Relationships – Looking at how individuals can be more effective by connecting with other people
3. Working Together – Bringing people together to achieve a result that requires mental or physical strength
4. Community – Helping young people to make a contribution to those around them
5. Environment – Enabling young people to appreciate the world around them, so they can see a link with something beyond themselves.

For more information, watch <https://vimeo.com/289197808/9bbd0104f7> or visit <https://www.skillforce.org/>

Army Welfare Services (AWS) – Cashfield Youth Club

A group of girls from Cashfield Youth Club in Haverfordwest have been promoting positive mental health for other young people from service families. This has formed part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award led by the Army Welfare Service and Pembrokeshire Youth. The group have successfully bid for funding from Pembrokeshire Youth Bank and were awarded £479 towards buying IT equipment. They have been busy producing posters and running interactive programs to explore mental health awareness and issues that may impact young people that come from military families.

Upcoming events



Research Seminar

The University of Winchester

Wednesday 24th July 11:00-14:00

This seminar is an opportunity to hear about emerging research in relation to the educational experiences and outcomes for Service children. It is also an opportunity to meet and network with other researchers in the field, and to discuss your recent and current research. You will also have the opportunity to help inform the future direction of research into the educational experiences of Service children.

For more information, visit <https://www.scipalliance.org/events/scip-alliance-research-seminar>



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 <https://www.rcet.org.uk/rcet-conference-supporting-confident-journeys/>

Armed Forces Community Covenant Forums and Events:

Tredegar Town Council's Armed Forces Day

Bedwelty Park
Sunday 30th June

Newport council – Armed Forces Day

Civic Centre, Newport
Monday 1st July

Torfaen Armed Forces Covenant Forum

The Council House, Ventnor Road, Old Cwmbran, NP44 3JY
Tuesday 2nd July 10:00-12:00

Wrexham Armed Forces Community Covenant Meeting

The Guildhall, Wrexham
Tuesday 9th July 10:00-12:00

Blaenau Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group Meeting

Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale
Tuesday 9th July 10:00-12:00

Denbighshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership

Denbighshire County Council
Thursday 11th July 10:30-12:30

Monmouthshire Armed Forces Forum

County Hall, Usk, NP15 1GA
Friday 19th July 9:30-11:30

Conwy Armed Forces Community Covenant Meeting

D Company Royal Welsh, Army Reserve Centre, Colwyn Bay
Thursday 29th August 10:30-12:30

Gwynedd Armed Forces Community Covenant Meeting

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

Cardiff and Vale Armed Forces Forum

Maindy Barracks, Cardiff
Wednesday 11th September 10:00-12:00

Anglesey Armed Forces Community Covenant Meeting

RAF Valley
Thursday 12th September 10:30-12:30

Pembrokeshire Armed Forces Covenant

County Hall, Pembrokeshire County Council, Haverfordwest
Tuesday 17th September 10:00-12:00

Health Board Armed Forces Forums:

Aneurin Bevan

Raglan Barracks, Newport

Friday 13th September 9:30-12:30

Resources

Army Families Federation (AFF) – Army & You magazine

Service children from schools in Wales were included in the 'Our youngsters voices' section (pg 32-33). The latest edition is available here: <http://bit.ly/AYsummer19>

School case studies

We are always looking for more examples of how schools are working with Armed Forces children. If you are currently working with Service Children we would love to hear from you, regardless if you are supporting one child or many children.

To tell us about the work you are doing and how that has benefited your pupils or school community please download the [case study template](#) and return by email to ssce@wlga.gov.uk



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**The next SSCE Cymru newsletter will be circulated in the Autumn 2019.
If you would like to contribute content to the next issue, please send it to
millie.taylor@wlga.gov.uk by 6th September.**