

Newsletter

Summer 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.



SSCE Cymru data collection

SSCE Cymru is currently aware of around 2,100 Service children living in Wales and is working with local authorities to establish the best way to capture data in 2020.

Why understanding the number and location of Service children is important:

- SSCE Cymru can work with the schools and offer support when required
- Schools can be kept up to date with resources and training that can help them to support their Service children
- Funding available to support Service children in education can be used as effectively as possible.

Service Children – Regional School Liaison Officers (SC-RSLOs)

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

The SC-RSLOs will be employed by the host local authorities to work across five/six local authorities each for a two-year project, starting in September 2020. They will support SSCE Cymru regionally, focusing on embedding good practice in schools and local authorities.

[Isle of Anglesey County Borough Council job advert](#)

[Newport City Council job advert](#)

The job adverts for the positions based in Pembrokeshire and The Vale of Glamorgan will be circulated to the SSCE Cymru Network when available.

For further information, contact millie.taylor@wlga.gov.uk

Covid-19 support

A page has been added to the SSCE Cymru website, which provides information/advice/guidance and signposting to organisations and resources relevant to supporting Service children during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The content includes:

- Education information
- Armed Forces organisation information
- Mental health and wellbeing support
- Home-schooling information.

The information provided may be beneficial to schools/education settings, local authorities and parents/carers of Service children.

www.SSCECymru.co.uk/schoolsandlocalauthorities/covid19support

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](#).

Funding updates

SSCE Cymru funding guidance

Members of the SSCE Cymru Network produced this document to provide schools and local authorities in Wales 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 was updated in May 2020 to reflect details of the funds available for 2020/21. Currently, it primarily includes information and advice on two funding streams, the MODs ESF and the Armed Forces Education Trust funding. The guidance will be updated as and when any other funding streams, relevant to supporting Service children in education in Wales, are made available.

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

Welsh Government funding



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

SSCE Cymru is currently working with Welsh Government on shaping how the funds available for the 2020/21 academic year will be utilised.

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.

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

SSCE Cymru Network updates

Education



Listening to Learn: The Voices of Service Children

Listening to the views, experiences and priorities of Service children is central to the SCiP Alliance's partnership approach. Their vision is for policymaking and practice to be informed by evidence, at the heart of which are the voices of Service children. The Year of the Service Child Voice was a programme of investigation to improve the SCiP Alliance's understanding of how those supporting the children of Armed Forces families and veterans put children's voices at the heart of all they do.

Visit www.SCiPAlliance.org to access the full report and watch the webinar which launched this report on 14th May 2020, including the SSCE Cymru Programme Manager as one of the panel members.

Learning Opportunities from Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

Are the Celts causing chaos in your house? Are the Romans driving you round the bend? Do you need inspiration for your child's artwork? There are lots of Museum learning resources on several subjects on the Museum's website.

Digital Resources



They also tweet about the various resources on [@Amgueddfa Learn](https://twitter.com/AmgueddfaLearn) – follow them to find out more!

Research participation request

ARE YOUR PARENTS IN THE ARMED FORCES?



ARE YOU AGED BETWEEN 11-16?

IS ONE OR BOTH OF YOUR PARENTS IN THE ARMED FORCES?

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO TALK TO ME ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES
OF EDUCATION FOR MY DOCTORAL STUDY?

MY NAME IS LAURA, I'M A TRAINEE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN MY STUDY AND WANT
TO KNOW MORE, PLEASE CONTACT ME BY EMAIL:

LPOTTS@TAVI-PORT.NHS.UK

Armed Forces organisations



Ministry
of Defence

The Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS)

The CEAS team are working remotely due to COVID-19. If Service families need to contact them regarding any issues to do with their child's education, for example School admissions, advice regarding their child's Special Educational Needs and Disability/ Additional Needs, overseas education, or retaining Service Family Accommodation for educational reasons, then they should email: [DCYP-CEAS-](mailto:DCYP-CEAS-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk)

Enquiries@mod.gov.uk

There is more information on their website, and matters related to COVID-19 can be found here: www.gov.uk/guidance/dcyp-covid-19



Ministry
of Defence

Living in our Shoes: Understanding the needs of UK Armed Forces families

A review commissioned by the Ministry of Defence into the concerns raised by Armed Forces families and recommendations for change. Published on 30th June 2020.

The section *Growing up in the Military: The Impact of Service Life on Children and Young People* (pages 47-92 of the full report), details evidence on the experiences of Service children and the support systems available, including information about SSCE Cymru. It also provides 30 short, medium, and long-term recommendations.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/living-in-our-shoes-understanding-the-needs-of-uk-armed-forces-families

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 9th September. For further information or to request an application pack, contact 160X-MCI-AFWA-Groupmailbox@mod.gov.uk



Home schooling and finding activities to keep children entertained is a challenge for parents/carers during Covid-19 crisis. Reading Force has been helping by sending free books and scrapbooks to over 3,000 Forces children!

It has provided a constructive activity throughout lockdown and been used to keep in touch with deployed parents and wider family.

Schools, nurseries and welfare organisations can register at www.readingforce.org.uk/schools-groups to receive FREE scrapbooks to be handed out to the Armed Forces families you work with. You can also spread the word on your social media and in communications. This FREE initiative is available to those serving, reservist, veteran, injured, as well as the divorced/separated partners and children of Forces personnel.



Blesma DIGITAL RESILIENCE RESOURCE FOR SCHOOLS

Over 70,000 young people have already experienced a Making Generation R workshop in person, with a Blesma Member visiting their school and sharing their incredible story of Resilience.

“We are passionate about spreading our message of Resilience and know it is especially needed during this challenging time.”

Their response to Covid-19 is to continue running this programme in the form of a free digital Resilience Resource available for all secondary schools in the UK.

For more information visit www.blesma.org/making-generation-r/

Other network members



Relate is the UK's largest provider of relationship support, and in 2019 they helped over two million people of all ages, backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities to strengthen their relationships. Relate provide support via counselling, domestic abuse perpetrator programmes and supported child contact through face-to-face, telephone or video conferencing.

Through partnerships with the RAFBF and RNRMC, Relate Cymru is able to offer free relationship counselling to RAF, Royal Navy and Royal Marines serving personnel, veterans, reservists and their dependants. Forces personnel and families face unique pressures

which can take their toll on family life and couple relationships. Funded Relate counselling is available whether you are married, living together, in a same-sex relationship, separated, divorced, widowed or single and can be delivered digitally or face-to-face. For more information on the services available including how to access them visit:

[RAF](#)

[Royal Navy/Royal Marines](#)

www.relate.org.uk/cymru



After three years of development, working in partnership with the Ministry of Defence, Heads Together have launched HeadFIT.

A new platform with online tools and resources to help defence personnel take a more proactive approach to their mental health and mental fitness.

“Mental fitness is all about the good management of good mental health. HeadFIT for Life helps defence people stay mentally fit and on top of their game... At work and at home.”

www.headfit.org

NSPCC

Home isn't always a safe place. Schools closing could have put some children at greater risk of abuse and neglect and that's why we're supporting the NSPCC. If you're worried about a child or young person, or if you notice that something just doesn't seem right, the NSPCC is here. You can talk to their helpline team who offer free support and guidance on 0808 800 5000 (8am-10pm Mon-Fri / 9am-6pm weekends) or you can email help@nspcc.org.uk 24/7.

Resources



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

Homeport

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



aff | army
families
federation

Army & You magazine

The latest edition is available here: <https://bit.ly/AYsum20>
Including details of new SSCE Cymru resources on page 46.



**ROYAL
AIR FORCE
Families
Federation**

Envoy

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

Covid:19 support resources

See [@SSCECymru](https://twitter.com/SSCECymru) on Twitter, where we will share lots of relevant information and advice on how to support Service children during COVID-19.

Upcoming events

One feature on the new SSCE Cymru website is 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

Case studies

SSCE Cymru has recently added a suite of new case studies to the [website](#), sharing examples of good practice in schools 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.



The next SSCE Cymru Newsletter will be circulated in the Autumn 2020. If you would like to contribute content to the next issue, please send it to SSCE@wlga.gov.uk by 9th September.



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