

Newsletter

Winter 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.



Supporting Service Children in Education (SSCE) Cymru project updates

Armed Forces in Wales Awards

We were extremely pleased the Millie Taylor, the SSCE Cymru *All Wales Project Officer for Service Children in Education*, was one of the three finalists in the Youth/Cadet Awards category 2019. See the following film, that was shown at the event: <https://vimeo.com/379032334>

SSCE Cymru data collection

Kirsty Williams AM, Minister of Education, has committed to identifying Service children, however currently there is no formal mechanism for this data collection process.

SSCE Cymru uses various methods to gain an understanding of the number and location of Service children, through various stakeholder engagement and activities with schools.

The most recent data collected on the number of Service children (SC) in schools:

Consortia	Local Authority	Total no. of schools	No. of schools with 0 SC	No. of schools with SC	No. of SC
CSC	Bridgend	59	7	13	40
CSC	Cardiff	123	15	18	118
CSC	Merthyr Tydfil	27	1	6	27
CSC	Rhondda Cynon Taff	122	11	77	233
CSC	The Vale of Glamorgan	54	6	26	329
EAS	Blaenau-Gwent	29	2	11	41
EAS	Caerphilly	87	13	44	158
EAS	Monmouthshire	36	6	25	94
EAS	Newport	56	13	32	131
EAS	Torfaen	33	1	9	27
ERW	Carmarthenshire	112	10	16	49
ERW	Ceredigion	47	6	2	9
ERW	Neath Port Talbot	70	6	12	52
ERW	Pembrokeshire	68	10	20	174
ERW	Powys	107	18	27	252
ERW	Swansea	96	8	20	54
GWE	Conwy	60	6	18	78
GWE	Denbighshire	57	6	7	39
GWE	Flintshire	79	13	18	66
GWE	Gwynedd	103	9	5	30
GWE	Isle of Anglesey	52	4	3	77
GWE	Wrexham	68	10	13	43
		1545	181	422	2121

In 2020, SSCE Cymru plans to carry out an activity, writing to all schools in Wales and providing a template letter for them to send to parents, in order to identify how many Service children they have enrolled.

Listening to our Service children

As part of the [SCiP Alliance Year of the Service Child Voice](#), the SSCE Cymru School and Community Engagement Officer has been visiting schools and running discussion groups with Service children. Over 80 primary and secondary age Service children in 12 schools have been involved in the project, where we aimed to listen to Service children directly about their experiences, how they benefit from being part of an Armed Forces family, what has helped them to overcome challenges and what further support they would like.

Some of the initial findings include:

- A number of discussion topics prompted responses and comments that were both positive and negative.
- One consistent message that is seen throughout the discussions regarding mobility, is the importance of the support Service children receive from friends and family, and the negative view of leaving/being away from them.
- Understandably, the majority of comments and views from Service children, regarding their experiences of deployment were overwhelmingly negative.
- A wide range of coping mechanisms are used by Service children to deal with their emotions and feelings during deployment. Some are individual and others are through support from others.
- Discussions about their experiences of living and being educated in Wales, prompted responses and comments that were both positive and negative but were primarily positive.

The full report on this project will be available on www.SSCECymru.co.uk in 2020.

New website

The new SSCE Cymru website will be launched in 2020 and includes lots of new items, such as case studies, films and a directory of support. Please check out www.SSCECymru.co.uk and promote within your own networks when the new site is available.

Welsh films

Ysgol Y Tywyn is a Welsh medium primary school in RAF Valley with a high number of Service Children. Many Service children that attend the school do so for only two years and have never learnt Welsh before. The Service families have had very positive experiences at the school. SSCE Cymru worked with the school and the Service children to produce some films short films on learning and speaking Welsh.

Welsh phrases - <https://vimeo.com/377598793>

Counting in Welsh - <https://vimeo.com/377599145>

Singing Happy Birthday - <https://vimeo.com/377598989>

Singing Welsh songs - <https://vimeo.com/377598073>

Many thanks to the staff and Service children at Ysgol Y Tywyn for helping with this project.

New SSCE Cymru Toolkits (school and parents)

Two new SSCE Cymru Toolkits are currently being developed – due to be launched in 2020.

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.

SCiP Alliance – Hub Cymru (14th November)

Venue: Royal British Legion boardroom, Cardiff

SSCE Cymru have collaborated with the University of South Wales to introduce the 7th SCiP Alliance Hub in the UK. The purpose of the Hub is to enable collaboration, facilitate communication and build capacity and was attended by representatives from Welsh Government, Armed Forces charities, the MOD, HEFCW and a number of universities in Wales.

The meeting was a great success with lots of positive discussions regarding supporting Service children through their education. Thank you to all that attended!

Agenda items:

- SCiP Alliance presentation – research, Hubs
- Service children experiences and SSCE Cymru support
- Service children in Fees and Access Plans
- Creative Forces Days
- Research in Wales.

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

Next SCiP Alliance – Hub Cymru: date (TBC) March 2019, venue (TBC).

MOD LAP (26th November)

Venue: Maindy Barracks, Cardiff

The first Ministry of Defence (MOD) Local Authority Partnership (LAP) group meeting included representatives from Welsh Government, the MOD and nine local authorities.

The meeting included lots of positive discussions on how local authorities can work with SSCE Cymru and DCYP to support their Service children. Thank you to all that attended!

Agenda items:

- Service children experiences and SSCE Cymru support
- Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP) update
- Service children - Regional School Liaison Officers project/proposal
- Local authority support for Service children.

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

Next MOD LAP: date (TBC) March 2019, venue (TBC).

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

For the second year running, Welsh Government have provided £250,000 to support the children of Armed Forces personnel in Wales.

63 applications were submitted from schools and local authorities and 28 of those received full or partial funding. Many applications were submitted collaboratively by school clusters. Some of the successful projects included:

- Staff hours
- Training courses
- After school clubs
- Reading materials.



Ministry
of Defence

Education Support Fund (ESF)

In its final year, the MOD made £2m available through the ESF. 11 applications were submitted from schools in Wales, with seven of those being successful and awarded £135k in total.



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.

SSCE Cymru was successful in the last application round, securing £19.5k for the new suit of resources that all schools in Wales can benefit from, including Toolkits, Tools, case studies and films. The next application deadline will be around the 4th February 2020 (TBC).

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

Guidance and advice on applying for grants is available on
www.SSCECymru.co.uk

SSCE Cymru Network updates

Education



Ministry
of Defence

New UCAS guidance for potential students from a UK Armed Forces background

Following collaboration between the MOD, UCAS and the Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance, UCAS has released a new information and advice page for students from a UK Armed Forces background and it is now live at: www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/individual-needs/students-uk-armed-forces-background.

The information pages cover advice for Service children, veterans and spouses/partners of UK Armed Forces personnel.

Armed Forces organisations

Army Families Federation (AFF)

Sadie Baldwin recently joined the AFF team as the new Wales and Borders Coordinator. Her main role is to engage with Army families and support them with any concerns or queries they may have, consulting with AFF specialist. Sadie also works alongside the chain of command, service providers and other agencies.

Some of the main areas AFF can offer support with are health and additional needs, housing, Army reserves, deployments, educational needs and childcare, employment training, money matters and family life.

When a Service personal or member of their family can talk about concerns or issues and can see they are valued it has a positive impact on their lives. This in turn helps AFF to collect important evidence, which can be used to help lobby for change where it is needed.

Contact Sadie:

wales@aff.org.uk

07527 492868



Exciting opportunity for children and young people aged 9-18!

Never Such Innocence (NSI) is a UK-based international educational charity aiming to give children and young people a voice on conflict. NSI offers a creative arts competition and unique platforms for young people across the world.

This year's competition theme is 'The Impact of Conflict on Communities' with two bonus categories: 'A Fight for Freedom' and '75'.

NSI encourages children and young people to look at conflict that has or is currently affecting communities and respond through a poem, speech, song or piece of artwork.

Every entrant will receive a personalised certificate of commendation and there will be very special prizes for winners! On their website, they have a free resource entitled, 'Conflict Through the Ages', examining the histories and themes of a number of major conflicts. Visit their website for more information or to enter their international competition. The deadline to enter is 20th March 2020. Join children and young people from over 50 countries in this international movement!

For further information contact enquiries@neversuchinnocence.com or visit www.neversuchinnocence.com.

NAVAL SERVICE FAMILY AND PEOPLE SUPPORT

In support of our people,
we provide:

- An Information Service
- Online Communication
- A Range of Community Activities & Projects
- Advice to Divisional/Chain of Command
- A Casework Service



0800 145 6088

For more information on our services please visit:
www.royalnavy.mod.uk

[f](https://www.facebook.com/NSFamilyPeopleSupport) /NSFamilyPeopleSupport [t](https://twitter.com/NavalServiceFPS) @ NavalServiceFPS

NS FPS

"An Agile, Integrated Service to meet the needs of all our people"



Local authorities

Newport and Monmouthshire Family Fun Day

During the summer holidays the HMF Education Support Officer for Newport and Monmouthshire and the Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Liaison Officer (AFLO) ran a family fun day for Service Families at the Newport International Sports Village, supported by SSCE Cymru.

Families from all the Armed Forces services attended, and it was a great success. It helped to promote the work of SSCE Cymru and the support the HMF Education Officer can provide to Service children and families. The event provided an opportunity to speak to families first hand and hear about their experiences, whilst capturing their views on where further support is required.

Newport Live, County in the community, HMS Coast Guard, and Mini Golf all provided a variety of activities free of charge at the event.



Schools

Crickhowell High School

The school has got an exciting year ahead of them, due to the successful funding bid through the Armed Forces Covenant Grant, enabling the school to have a Family Forces Support Officer in situ. Working in close partnership with Army Welfare Service (Brecon), they will run a student led group to create a school Mural, followed by an open evening where families can view the pupils hard work. It will be created by the student's own initiatives, utilising different materials to create this piece of work. The exciting new project will help support Service children and increase the understanding of the Armed Forces in the school, through chat, new friendships groups and giving a better understanding of difficulties and opportunities that present themselves to Armed Forces families. The proposed project will also cross over into the School's Curriculum.

Resources

Naval Families FEDERATION

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:
<http://bit.ly/win19AY>



Envoy

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

Upcoming events



Schools Termly event

1 Kingsway, Cardiff CF10 3PW
Thursday 13th February 13.30

“We are very pleased to be welcoming Millie Taylor, the SSCE Cymru All Wales Project Officer for Service Children in Education, to speak to us about the challenges faced by Service children in our schools and how schools can better support them.

We are also excited to be welcoming Dr Helen Lewis who will be representing the Burns Pet Nutrition Foundation who train volunteers and their dogs to support children with their reading and promote their wellbeing. At the Ultimate Wellbeing in Education Conference, Sir Anthony Seldon said that every school should have a wellbeing dog. The leading educationalist spoke about how a classroom pet can reduce anxiety among young people and could be key to improving mental health in schools.

We will also be hearing from AfA schools benefiting from our Achieving Wellbeing coaching programmes and how they have better met the needs of their pupils.

All schools are welcome. Booking will be through Eventbrite after Christmas. All places are complimentary.”

For further information, visit www.afaeducation.org/

National AFA Conference

Park House School Newbury
Tuesday 4th February

Armed Forces Community Covenant Forums and Events

Anglesey Armed Forces Community Covenant Meeting

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

Newport Armed Forces Forum

Raglan Barracks, Allt-Yr-Yn View, Newport
19th December 09:30-11:30

Conwy Armed Forces Community Covenant Meeting

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

Denbighshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership

Meeting Room 1, Caledfryn, Denbigh
9th January 10:30-13:00

Ceredigion Armed Forces Community Covenant

13th January 10:00-13:00

Carmarthenshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Steering Group

MOD Barracks, Picton Terrace, Carmarthen
14th January

Blaenau-Gwent Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group

Civic Centre Committee Room 2, Blaenau-
Gwent
21st January 10:00-12:00

Pembrokeshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Forum

County Hall, Pembrokeshire County Council,
Haverfordwest
22nd January

University Health Board Armed Forces Forums

Aneurin Bevan Health Board Armed Forces Forum

Raglan Barracks
15th January 09:30-12:30

Cardiff & Vale Health Board Armed Forces Forum Covenant Group

Committee Room 2, Civic Offices,
Vale of Glamorgan Council
15th January 14:00-16:00

Hywel Dda Health Board Armed Forces Forum

Ystyth Room, Penmorfa, Aberaeron
10th February 14:00-16:30

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.



Follow us on Twitter [@SSCECymru](https://twitter.com/SSCECymru)

The next SSCE Cymru Newsletter will be circulated in the Spring 2020. If you would like to contribute content to the next issue, please send it to SSCE@wlga.gov.uk by 28th February.