

Newsletter

Winter 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.



Case management support



The mobility of Armed Forces families can have an academic, social and emotional impact on Service children. As a result, issues may arise that require support outside of the capacity of the school and/or local authority (LA). In these instances, the [Regional School Liaison Officers \(RSLOs\) for Service children](#) in Wales will work with the school and LA to identify support that could be accessed to overcome the barrier/s that the individual child or small groups of Service children are facing.

The RSLOs will coordinate intervention/s, monitor the progress and measure the impact, following a consistent all-Wales process. They will have access to funding for these interventions when required, which was secured as part of the funding bid to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust.

The case management support from RSLOs will be available for schools to access at any point of the year beginning in January 2021. Schools should contact the RSLO for their region to discuss accessing the support.

Parent/carer of Service child(ren) survey findings

During September-October 2020, SSCE Cymru conducted a 'parents/carers of Service children' survey. Giving them the opportunity to share their experiences about living in/moving to Wales, the impact their lifestyles have on their children's education and the support they have received from schools.

There were 121 full responses, which will form the content of a findings report due to be released by January 2021.

For further information, contact SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk

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

Welsh Government funding



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

£200,000 of this funding is to be distributed to the local authorities in Wales based on funding plans developed with SSCE Cymru, supported by the RSLOs. For further information on how the funds will be distributed, visit the [SSCE Cymru website](#).

MOD funding



Ministry
of Defence

[Ministry of Defence \(MOD\) – Education Support Fund \(ESF\) \(2021\)](#)

The Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP) is delighted to announce the results from the 2021 MOD ESF bidding round.

The MOD ESF is open to publicly funded schools, Academies and Free schools in the UK attended by Service children, where schools are faced with mitigating the effects on those Service children whose parents are subject to frequent mobility/deployment.

This year's ESF has been particularly welcomed by schools across the UK, with DCYP receiving a total of 115 applications requesting just short of £4.8 million.

The bidding round closed on 7 October 2020 and all applications supported by the funding panels will receive either full or partial funding. In total, 72 applicants secured funding from the 2021 ESF (19 full, 53 partial) and the funding will directly benefit approximately 16,500 Service children across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

There were seven applications from schools in Wales and five of those were successful, securing just over £160,000 in total.



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

SSCE Cymru Network updates

Armed Forces organisations



2020.

Available [here](#), in the report you will find:

- The types of issue reported to us,
- The changes we have influenced; and,
- Case studies.

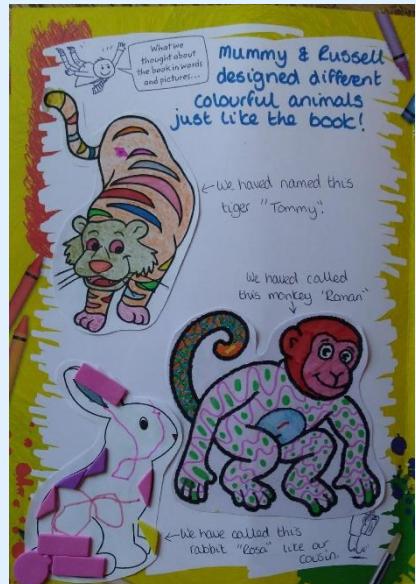
Impact report

Showcasing the great work that the RAF Families Federation does to support our RAF personnel, partners and families, with the issues that arise from a mobile lifestyle.

Unlike some organisations, The RAF Families Federation does not produce an annual impact report. The nature of their work, using evidence to change policy and practice, is slow, and therefore progress is difficult to illustrate over a single year. In this report the RAF Families Federation celebrates what has been achieved throughout 2019 and



The Reading Force charity gives free books and special scrapbooks to serving and ex-serving Forces families for children of all ages, from babies to young adults, to encourage families to share books, chat about them and fill 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. It helps families stay connected and they can take part at any time.

"We have really enjoyed reading together. Sometimes it's hard to know what to talk about on our phone calls with Daddy, reading a book and then setting each other challenges for the scrapbook is really good fun."

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

Follow Reading Force on Facebook for news and weekly book giveaways! Schools and settings can register online to receive scrapbooks for families and children: www.readingforce.org.uk



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In-School Workshops: Welsh Singer-Songwriter, Bethzienna, is ready to hold a workshop at your school! Young people will learn the basics of songwriting and by the end of the workshop will have a completed song. To request a workshop, contact enquiries@neversuchinnocence.com.

Digital Poetry Workshop and Online Resources: For those that would prefer a digital workshop, Never Such Innocence I has teamed up with author and poet Nik Perring to create a Digital Poetry Workshop for your classroom! Nik will take your students on a journey to write a poem for the competition. Additionally, you will find a variety of worksheets to inspire their poetry, art, speech and song writing [here](#).

International Poetry, Art, Speech and Song Competition: Did you know that each young person will receive a personalised certificate of commendation for participating in our competition? Learn more about this year's theme: [The Unheard Voices of Conflict: Stories from Around the World](#).

The deadline to enter is 19th March 2021.

This is normal for me.

This is normal for me, but some people don't know how it feels.
It can get rough sometimes, children tease because I'm different.
Dad is not there.
I watch the sea for him, I stand still and stare.

This is normal for me, but it might be different if you stayed around a lot.
Christmas, birthdays, holidays, New Years, when we have been apart.
Missing someone so much I have no words for being so sad.
Separation and silence.

This is normal for me, counting days until you are gone,
No mark on the calendar to count down your return.
You had to leave me in hospital, I knew you had to go.
You do such a good job and you were hurting too I know.

This is normal for me, it would help if you knew how it feels.
To feel special, to be part of my family and community.
Every time I see you I am filled with such joy.
You're important to me, you're important to everybody, our country.
I still watch the sea. This is normal for me.

By Jacob, age 10
(Serving submariner's son)





In October, Forces Fitness delivered their health, well-being, and resilience sessions to their 130th school in Wales. These sessions have now been delivered to over 15,000 participants with fantastic feedback.

Forces Fitness developed this project along with support from teachers in Palmerston Primary, Barry and Pencoed Comprehensive school, Bridgend.

In recent months, Glyn-Gaer Primary School in Gwent and Palmerston Primary School in Barry have been successful in gaining Armed Forces Covenant funding for programs that engage their Armed Forces Community and have utilised the team at Forces Fitness and Military Veteran Volunteers to engage their Services Children and pupils within the school and improve key areas such as health, wellbeing and building resilience.

The sessions and workshops have now been delivered to primary school children right up to university students and they fit well into the school / college / university timetable. They focus on educating the attendee in easy-to-follow health and nutrition tips. Each session has a mixture of practical and theory and they are mainly conducted in the great outdoors or in a sports hall during extreme weather conditions!

For further information, contact sean@forcesfitness.co.uk



With families always in mind

The Family Foundation Sefydliad y Teulu

Gyda teuluoedd wastad mewn golwg



#FamilyConnectorsproject

The Armed Forces Covenant have funded The Family Foundation to deliver a family focused support project providing:



- *Tailored Training support
- *Employment support
- *Job search/ Interview Skills
- *Emotional and Mental Support
- *Wellbeing support



If you are a veteran, a family member of a veteran, still serving, a family member of someone still serving or carer of a veteran and you live in South or West Wales get in touch.

Email: info@thefamilyfoundation.co.uk
Mobile: 07761958219

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @thefamilyfoundationcymru



'My Poppy Run' 2020

Unfortunately, this year, like many other organisations, MPCT was unable to conduct proceedings to mark Remembrance Day in the manner in which they normally would. However, for the Poppy Appeal 2020, the Royal British Legion is held its annual 'My Poppy Run' event virtually, encouraging people around the country to run, jog or walk-in order to raise funds towards the important work they do to assist the most disadvantaged, and their families, in the Armed Forces community. MPCT feel that it is crucial that their learners are able to participate in Remembrance activities in some way this year, as they do every year.



MPCT staff and learners participated by completing physical activities each day for the duration of the event. Activities included walking, running, jogging, cycling or upper body exercises to allow participation for all levels of ability. The overall mileage target during the event was 38,480 miles, which is 19,240 miles multiplied by two. The figure of 19,240 is of particular historic importance as on 1st July 1916 and during the very 1st day of the Battle of the Somme, the British Forces suffered a total of 19,240 fatalities in a single day. By reaching this target MPCT will collectively be completing 2 miles for each of the fatalities on that day which is known for being the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army.

MPCT believe this will be an excellent way for learners and staff to not only show their respect for the sacrifice of others through an activity that will promote their own physical and mental wellbeing. As an organisation MPCT achieved 47,769 so 9,000 miles over the original target and have currently raised £4,987 with donations till coming in.

The link below gives the full details:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mpct-college2>

<https://mpct.co.uk/mpct-poppy-appeal-2020/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psVlpE0Oo7s>



**Ministry
of Defence**

Army Welfare Services – Haverfordwest project

The Service Community in Haverfordwest has been involved in a brand-new initiative with Keep Wales Tidy. 'Local Places for Nature' aims to create, restore and enhance hundreds of habitats across the country. The initiative is part of a wider £5m Welsh Government 'Local Places for Nature' fund, committed to acquiring, restoring and enhancing nature on your doorstep.

Initial work has been to build a raised bed planter with native plants that are, bright, aromatic and nectar-rich; creating a colourful haven that will benefit bees and butterflies. The next step is to engage the young people in building a small wildlife-friendly garden filled with a variety of habitats, bug and bee hotels, bird feeders and habitat boxes. They then hope to survey the new wildlife attracted to the garden.

Local authorities



Neath Port Talbot's support is recognised and sustained

After securing funding, the role of the Armed Forces Education Liaison Officer (AFELO) was introduced into the Neath Port Talbot Local Authority in January 2020. Work quickly began to establish the AFELO as support for schools, families and partner agencies. Links were made with schools and plans were in place to provide supportive links throughout the authority.

Unfortunately, this was all put on hold when Covid-19 forced schools to close in March. Since then, although challenging, support has been maintained with schools and provided for families where needed. This month, the local authority learned that it had been successful in securing a further grant, enabling the work of the AFELO to continue and develop even further.

For further information, contact Heather Thomas h.thomas2@npt.gov.uk

**TORFAEN
COUNTY
BOROUGH**



**BWRDEISTREF
SIROL
TORFAEN**

Leading up to Remembrance Sunday, Torfaen schools took part in a Remembrance competition. Primary school pupils were tasked with creating an art entry, whilst secondary school pupils had to get their creative writing caps on to produce a literary entry.

Congratulations to Poppy Higgs at Greenmeadow Primary School who has won a £100 WH Smith voucher and £100 for her school.

Llantarnam Grange Art Centre in adjudicating said:

"What a wonderful selection of work – such thoughtful, poignant work from our young people. Creative, innovative use of techniques, beautiful personal tributes to family members. It was a really tough one to choose! But we've chosen the winner for its beautiful simplicity. We would also like to commend Leo from Maendy Primary School for his work."



The winner of the Torfaen Secondary Schools competition is Emily Brown from Croesyceiliog School. She won a £100 WH Smith voucher and £100 for her school.

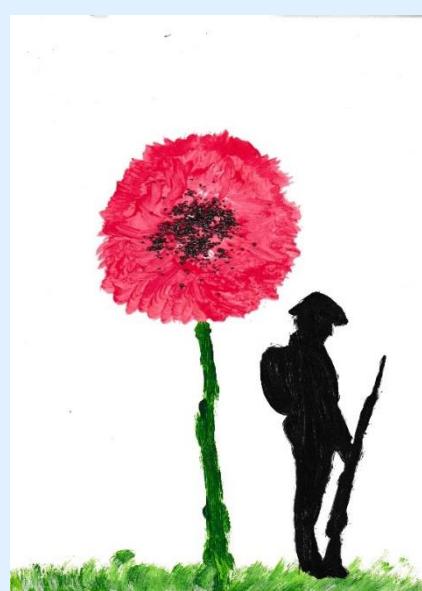
Afon Llwyd Writers in adjudicating said:

"The winning entry was a wonderfully strong poem, beautiful imagery; very touching. We enjoyed reading each of the poems. It's wonderful to see a new generation of poets emerging in Torfaen and we encourage each entrant to keep writing. We would also like to commend Sienna Whittaker from Croesyceiliog School."

Both pupils were presented with vouchers by Torfaen Armed Forces Champion and Blaenavon Ward Councillor, Cllr Alan Jones.

The Competition was funded as part of the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust.

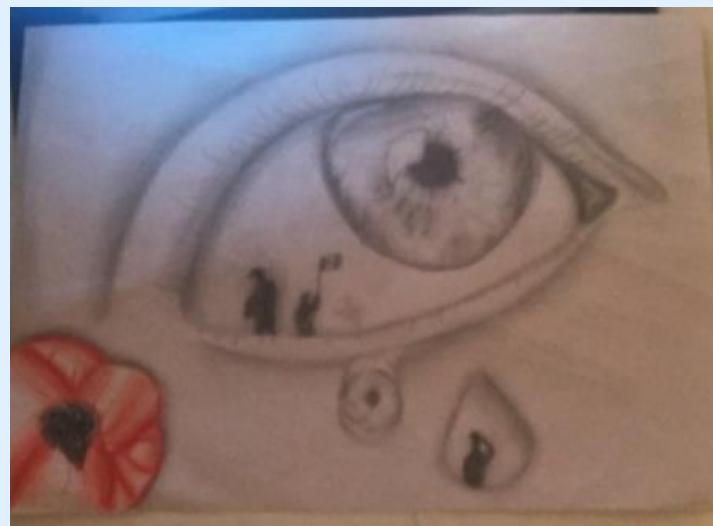
Torfaen County Borough Council wishes to thank all pupils who sent in entries, Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre, Afon Llwyd Writers and the Trust Fund for making this possible.





Poppy Virtual Wall

See the fantastic entries RCT received this year for Remembrance Day [here](#).



Resources



Comisiynydd
Plant Cymru

Children's
Commissioner
for Wales

Free ambassador scheme for primary and secondary schools. Bi-lingual resources to learn about UNCRC and when schools sign up we send a free pack of resources. Available [here](#).

Tackling stereotypes resources. Available [here](#).

Building Block: Inclusion in the foundation phase. Available [here](#).



Homeport

The latest edition is available [here](#)



Army & You magazine

The latest edition is available [here](#)

Including information about SSCE Cymru and the new RSLOs on pgs. 13 & 46.



Envoy

The latest edition is available [here](#)

Including information about SSCE Cymru funding guidance, Covid-19 support information and the RSLOs on pgs. 16-17.

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.

NEW CASE STUDY: [University of South Wales – Supporting the Armed Forces Community](#)

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.

Upcoming events

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 SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk



The next SSCE Cymru Newsletter will be circulated in the Spring 2021.

If you would like to contribute content to the next issue, please send it to SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk by 28th February.



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