

**ssce**  
**CYMRU**



SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN  
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN  
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



# MONTHLY BULLETIN

JANUARY 2025



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CLIC  
WLGA

# Message from the SSCE Cymru team...

*“Blwyddyn Newydd Dda – Happy New Year! 🌞*

*As we step into the new year and the Spring term, it's the perfect time to refocus and consider new projects and initiatives for the rest of the academic year. If your school is thinking about planning an event to celebrate your Service children, we invite you to join us at our informal [SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions](#). These sessions are a great opportunity to discuss funding options or share ideas.*

*We were thrilled to connect with several schools across Wales towards the end of last year. These schools reached out to our team to begin their journeys towards becoming Armed Forces Friendly. We're excited to hear about their progress and the insights they've gained into the experiences of their Service children.*

*If your school would like to learn more about how to better support the Service children in your community, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We would love to hear from you! You can contact our team via [SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk).*

*We look forward to supporting you in the year ahead!”*



**Millie**  
Programme  
Manager



**Jo**  
Participation  
Lead Officer



**Cara**  
School Liaison  
Officer



**Becca**  
School Liaison  
Officer

# SSCE Cymru team

## Programme Manager



Millie

- Coordinates and delivers SSCE Cymru activities aligned to the SSCE Cymru mission.
- Ensures Service children's experiences are understood and responded to in Wales.
- Represents Wales to share good practice across the UK.

## School Liaison Officers



Cara



Becca

- Work with schools and local authorities to identify Service children and maintain a database of school contacts.
- Promote the SSCE Cymru e-learning package.
- Work with education settings to embed support for Service children:
  - Utilise SSCE Cymru resources (School Toolkit and Tools, Funding guidance)
  - Achieve their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status
  - Celebrate Month of the Military Child
  - Access funding to support Service children and families.
- Identify and promote good practice in schools.

SLOs are funded by:



## Participation Lead Officer



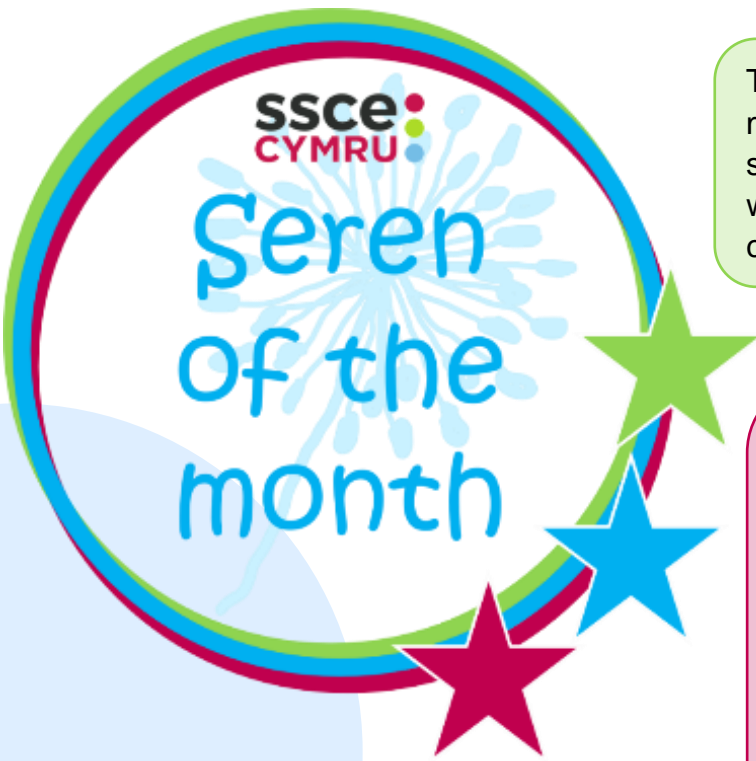
Jo

### Works with schools to:

- Listen to Service children
- Set up Service children clubs
- Facilitate opportunities for Service children to come together to share their experiences
- Celebrate Service children's experiences
- Share the voices of Service children.

Contact:

[SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk)



This is an opportunity for our team to publicly recognise an SSCE Cymru STAR, and say thank you to a Service child, member of school staff, work colleague, network member or organisation that have positively collaborated with us or shown exceptional support to Service children in education and their local Armed Forces community. We are grateful to work with some truly inspiring individuals and groups who ensure that Service children continue to feel valued and celebrated here in Wales.

## Seren of the month – January 2025

A BIG thank you to Leah Humphreys, the Deputy Headteacher at Prendergast CP School, for her invaluable contribution at last year's SCiP Alliance conference. By adding her voice to the panel, Leah provided a crucial perspective on how school staff are navigating the current challenges in education, particularly the fiscal and time constraints when supporting vulnerable groups, including children from Armed Forces families.

SSCE Cymru deeply appreciates the outstanding work that schools like Prendergast do to support Service children. We remain committed to our mission of helping school staff across Wales by offering guidance on funding, accessing resources, and promoting positive engagement with the Armed Forces community.

We are especially grateful for the work Prendergast School does in this area and would like to take this opportunity to thank not only Leah but the entire school community. To Headteacher Ms. John, Service Children School Champion Mr. Hill, and all the staff – your Little Troopers are fortunate to have such dedicated advocates.

**Thank you – and we look forward to continuing our partnership and supporting your amazing efforts.**



**Leah Humphreys**  
Prendergast CP School





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SSCE Cymru's Armed Forces Friendly Schools (AFFS) Cymru initiative was launched in 2022. Schools in Wales complete a series of activities and actions that are linked to the SSCE Cymru School Checklist, including some compulsory elements, in order to achieve their Bronze, then Silver, then Gold status. The objectives are to embed good practice for supporting Service children, create a positive environment for Service children to share their experiences and encourage schools to become more engaged with their Armed Forces community.

This month, we are pleased to congratulate the following school for achieving their AFFS Cymru status:  
**Bronze:** Ysgol Bae Baglan (Neath Port Talbot)

**Congratulations** to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. So far, 33 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 33 have achieved Bronze, 7 have achieved Silver and 4 have achieved Gold!!!

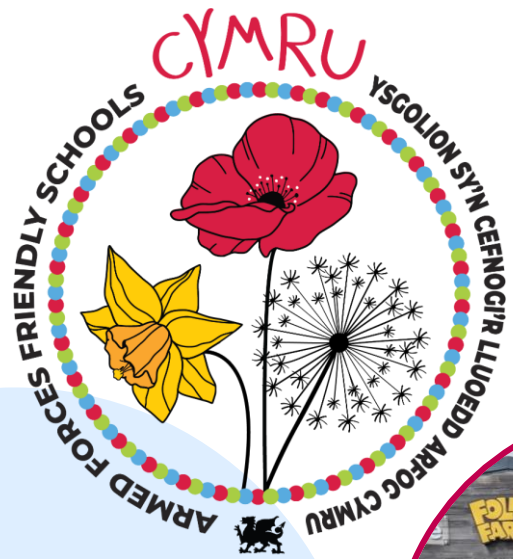


See the next page for images of how schools in Wales have celebrated achieving their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status.



[Click here for further information about Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru](#)





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# Service children data collection

SSCE Cymru are supporting the local authority to collect \*Service children data this year. Therefore, we kindly ask you to complete our online data collection form to confirm the number of \*Service children in your school and provide us with the most up to date accurate record of where Service children are across Wales.

Note: Please also let us know if you have no Service children currently enrolled at your school.

Previous data indicates that over 35% of schools in Wales have Service children enrolled, with around half of those only having only 1-2 Service children.



## **\*Welsh Governments definition of a Service child**

*A 'Service child' has parent(s) or person(s) exercising parental responsibility who is/are Service personnel serving:*

- In HM Regular or Reserve Armed Forces – Royal Navy and Royal Marines; British Army and Royal Air Force, Or*
- Is an Armed Forces Veteran who has been in Service within the past two years, Or*
- One of their parents died whilst serving in the Armed Forces and the learner has received a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.*



## **Why we ask you to capture data on Service children**

- Identifying Service children allows schools to provide them with appropriate support
- Schools can access funding to support the needs of their Service children
- Comparisons can be made on attainment levels between Service and non-Service children
- Local authorities can prepare to support Service children with their mental health and wellbeing needs
- SSCE Cymru can provide schools with support, resources and training to better understand and support their Service children based on their unique experiences and needs.



Click here to use the templates within SSCE Cymru's Tool 4 to help gather and collate this data





# SSCE Cymru e-learning

Last year, SSCE Cymru launched our highly anticipated **NEW** on-demand, bi-lingual, e-learning training package on *Supporting Service children in education in Wales!!!!*

Funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, the SSCE Cymru e-learning training package has been designed to give educators the tools and confidence to understand and support the needs of Service children within their education settings in Wales however, the training can be accessed by anyone who would like to learn more about supporting Service children within education.

This **FREE** training package consists of nine topics and will take roughly two hours to complete. Your progress will be saved so that you can continue where you left off and revisit the training as required.

## Topics included in the e-learning:

- Introduction to SSCE Cymru
- Armed Forces in Wales
- Service children's experiences
- Education in Wales
- Identifying Service children
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Extra-curricular activities
- Funding to support Service children
- Research and evidence.

*“Great links that I will use and very comprehensive. I loved the videos.”*

*“There are several parts of this training that will impact my support and practice within my schools.”*

*“The voice clips and case studies were really helpful throughout.”*

100% of participants found the e-learning beneficial



ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT  
LLUOEDD ARFOG  
CYFAMOD



# Congratulations Riley

**SSCE Cymru are very pleased to congratulate Riley for being elected as the Welsh Youth Parliament member for Preseli Pembrokeshire!!!**

Riley is a Service child ambassador for SSCE Cymru, where he takes a lot of pride in sharing his experiences as a Service child, to raise awareness of the impact this can have.

The key issues that Riley will be focusing on in the Senedd are:

- Service Children's Education
- Equal Educational Funding
- ALN waiting List.



# Service children clubs

## Does your school run a club for your Service children?

If yes, then we'd love to hear from you! We are conducting surveys with schools that have a Little Troopers Club (Primary) or Forces Life Club (Secondary). We would like to know what impact the club is having on the Service children / young people and your school community and includes questions about what your club currently involves and what plans you have for your club in the future.

We will use the information collected to explore further opportunities to ensure that the voices of Service children continue to be heard and represented in Wales.

Additionally, we would like to introduce the opportunity for older Little Troopers or Forces Life Club members to join [Reading Force Book clubs](#) – to see if they would be interested in starting a book club within their existing club.

DEADLINE:  
17<sup>th</sup> Jan.

## Primary school survey



Click  
here to  
complete

## Secondary school survey



Click  
here to  
complete

# Supporting ALL to Thrive family survey



Supporting ALL to Thrive

OXFORD  
BROOKES  
UNIVERSITY

DEADLINE:  
31<sup>st</sup> Jan.

## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking families with children who have special educational needs, disabilities, additional learning needs, or support needs.



An online survey investigating educational experiences of school-age children with additional needs.



The survey should take between 10 and 25 minutes, depending on your circumstances.



The survey closes on 31st January 2025.

Parents or carers of a child aged 4-18 with additional needs in UK education or in MOD schools overseas are eligible to take part.



This survey is part of a larger study focusing on children in Armed Forces families, but it's open to ALL families with children who need additional support.



clairelee@brookes.ac.uk



<https://sattproject.org.uk/>



01865 603398

SCAN ME





# Thriving Lives toolkit webinar series

Service Children's Progression  
 **ALLIANCE**

This year, the SCiP Alliance are hosting a series of FREE webinars for schools.

## Supporting Service children in school with small cohorts

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 16:00**

Joined by Charmian Hickman, CEO of the Armed Forces Education Trust, as well as the Headteacher and Deputy Head of Cwmclydach Primary School.

## Case Study Showcase

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 16:00**

Discover the Naval Children's Charity-funded Case Study Bank, with project team insights on best practices and response for the Thriving Lives Toolkit.

## Principle 6 – Parents are engaged (Survey Tool focus)

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 16:00**

Peter Rose from Tiller Consulting will provide an introduction to the Survey Tool, a key feature of the Thriving Lives Toolkit designed to facilitate sending surveys to parents of Service children.

# SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions

Every month, SSCE Cymru host a series of informal drop-in sessions focusing on specific themes. Come along to any of the sessions that interest you, where members of the SSCE Cymru team will share relevant information, promote resources, coordinate discussions, answer your questions and create opportunities for collaboration.

## JANUARY schedule

**Mon 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Tue 7<sup>th</sup>**

**2pm** Local Authority Action Plan

**Wed 8<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** Service children voice (Primary)  
**3pm** Data collection

**Thu 9<sup>th</sup>**

**2pm** Service children voice (Secondary)

**Fri 10<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit

**Mon 13<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** Funding for supporting Service children

**Tue 14<sup>th</sup>**

**2pm** Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

**Wed 15<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** Local Authority Action Plan

**Thu 16<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

**Fri 17<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

**Mon 20<sup>th</sup>**

**2pm** Service children voice (Primary)

**Tue 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Thu 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Fri 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**10am** Data collection

**Mon 27<sup>th</sup>**

**3pm** Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

**Tue 28<sup>th</sup>**

**3pm** Funding for supporting Service children

**Wed 29<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** SC voice (Secondary)  
**3pm** Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

**Thu 30<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** AFFS Cymru  
**2pm** SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit

**Fri 31<sup>st</sup>**



See the further details, including the full timetable and joining instructions here

# SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions

## FEBRUARY schedule

**Mon 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
3pm Funding for supporting  
Service children

**Tue 4<sup>th</sup>**  
2pm Service children voice  
(Primary)

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup>**  
10am Local Authority  
Action Plan  
2pm AFFS Cymru

**Thu 6<sup>th</sup>**  
10am Service children voice  
(Secondary)  
3pm AFFS Cymru

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup>**  
10am Month of the Military  
Child

**Mon 10<sup>th</sup>**  
2pm SCiP Alliance Thriving  
Lives Toolkit

**Tue 11<sup>th</sup>**  
3pm Armed Forces Friendly  
Schools Cymru

**Wed 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Thu 13<sup>th</sup>**  
10am Funding for  
supporting Service children  
2pm LA Action Plan

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup>**  
10am Armed Forces  
Friendly Schools Cymru

**Mon 17<sup>th</sup>**  
10am Service children voice  
(Primary)

**Tue 18<sup>th</sup>**  
2pm Armed Forces Friendly  
Schools Cymru

**Wed 19<sup>th</sup>**  
10am SCiP Alliance Thriving  
Lives Toolkit  
2pm SC voice (Secondary)

**Thu 20<sup>th</sup>**  
10am AFFS Cymru  
3pm Month of the Military  
Child

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Tue 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Wed 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Thu 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Fri 28<sup>th</sup>**



# Funding...

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

In 2024/25, schools and local authorities (LAs) in Wales can apply for funding throughout the year, to deliver projects specific to supporting Service children in education, linked to the curriculum in Wales.



Ariennir gan  
**Lywodraeth Cymru**  
Funded by  
**Welsh Government**

£1,000 projects – open to all schools and local authorities in Wales.

£3,000 projects – open to schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru Bronze status and all local authorities.



See further  
information  
here

**NEXT  
DEADLINE:**  
7<sup>th</sup> February

## SSCE Cymru case management support

Case management is available to schools that have an individual Service child or a very small number of Service children with a specific need related to the impact of their Armed Forces lifestyle.



See further  
information  
here

**NEW**

SSCE-WF good practice  
examples document.

Available here

## SSCE Cymru funding advice document

This document provides advice from the SSCE Cymru team for schools and local authorities, to assist them when applying for funding to support Service children / local Armed Forces community.

It also includes a checklist of suggested actions to help when preparing and completing a funding application as well as a list of funding ideas and suggestions.

Available  
here