

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

A Service Child is defined as:

- A child who has one or both parents currently serving in the armed forces;
- A child whose parent/s have served in the armed forces within the last six years (Veteran); or
- A child whose parent/s are currently serving as Reservists.

About SSCE:

Our mission is to provide the best possible educational support to children, by ensuring education professionals understand the issues Service children in Wales may face. The project is a Welsh Local Government Association project funded by the MOD Education Support Fund until 2018.

Since the project began in 2014 we have worked with schools, local authorities, Armed Forces families and support organisations to gather their views and experiences, build our networks across Wales and continue to raise awareness and understanding amongst education professionals, local authorities and the Welsh Government.

SSCE resources:

Website – primary resource of information on education for Service Children in Wales www.sscecymru.co.uk

Toolkits – for parents and schools which include practical advice on how to support Service Children
<http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/toolkits>

Short films – about the experiences of Service Children and organisational support available
<http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/ssce-films>

Digital stories – experiences of individual Service Children and how schools have supported them through the challenges they faced <http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/service-children-stories>

Service Children in Education Data Study (2015) – about the number of Service Children in Wales and provisions available <http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/data-study-2015>

The number of Service Children in Wales:

Please help us to gather data on the number and location of Service Children so that we can ensure schools gain maximum benefit from the vast amount of resources and support that is available to them. By completing the form in the link below you will help SSCE Cymru to have stronger knowledge of the number of Service Children in Wales. <http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/service-children-wales>

Plans for 2018:

- Consider the outcomes of the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) for Service Children research – due in mid-April.
- Continue to scope opportunities to work with local authorities and organisations to identify the number and location of Service Children in Wales – through school admission applications and PLASC.
- Improve communications, work with organisations to share knowledge and promote activity through SSCE website, twitter and introducing quarterly newsletters to SSCE Cymru Network and schools.
- Produce new digital stories for SSCE Cymru website – with a focus on support for Service Children with ALN/SEN.

- Promote best practice through new school case studies on SSCE Cymru website.
- Plan and deliver the 2018 Supporting Service Children in Education All Wales Conference – June 12th.

If you are interested in being involved with any of the above work please contact millie.taylor@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)

SSCE Cymru Network updates

Armed Forces Education Trust

The Armed Forces Education Trust are here to help mitigate the disadvantages that some Service Children experience. They aim to support the most disadvantaged children to improve their education that has been compromised or put at risk by their parents' service.

To ensure that Service Children are given additional support where it is needed, the trust provides educational grants to individual Service Children, schools and clusters of schools.

For more information, visit <http://armedforceseducation.org/>

Children's Education Advisory Services (CEAS)

CEAS is part of the MOD's Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP). CEAS can provide advice and information on issues relating to Continuity of Education Allowance, school admissions and admission appeals, Retention of Quarter for educational purposes, Special Educational Needs registration and much more.

For further information on the support available through CEAS, contact DCYP-CEAS-Enquiries@mod.uk or visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childrens-education-advisory-service>

Military Kids Club (MKC) Heroes

MKC Heroes was started to raise the profile of Service and veterans' Children and to explain to others the unique challenges that go hand in hand with being a part of the military family.

It is a unique international pupil voice initiative formed to support Service and Veterans children and young people. This group works actively and in harmony to ensure that every member has a voice and is able to use it for the benefit of all.

For further information on how your school could become part of MKC, visit

<http://www.plymouthcurriculum.swgfl.org.uk/hmsheroes/>

Royal British Legion - 'thank you' to the First World War generation

100 years ago the First World War ended, and a new world began. The example and experience of those who lived through it shaped the world we live in today. In 2018 The Royal British Legion is leading the nation in saying Thank You to all who served, sacrificed and changed our world.

For more information on how you and your community can get involved, pay tribute through a nationwide creative competition for 9-16 year olds and see how others are getting involved in the 'thank you' movement, visit <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary/thank-you/>

The Armed Forces in Wales Awards 2018

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, these will be presented at a prestigious Awards Ceremony to be held in Cardiff on 22nd November 2018.

The four categories are: Armed Forces in Wales Award, Covenant Award, Youth/Cadet Award, Sports Award. The cut-off date for nominations is 10th September 2018.

For further information or to request an application pack please contact SO2 MCI Mr Andy Williams:

Andrew.Williams935@mod.gov.uk

SCiP Alliance – questionnaire

It has been estimated that well over 100,000 children in the UK have a parent who is currently serving in the armed forces, or has done so in the past. These 'Service children' live in all parts of the UK, not just in areas close to a military base. Research has shown that the educational attainment and progression of Service Children can be disrupted. Significantly fewer service children go to university than those with similar academic ability from the general population.

The Service Children's Progression Alliance (SCiP) Alliance supports professionals in schools, community settings and universities. Whether you work with one Service Child or several hundred, the SCiP Alliance is committed to providing information and resources that help you to enable children from military families to achieve their educational potential, and progress to thriving adult lives.

The SCiP Alliance is inviting all professionals who work with children and young people in schools, colleges, community settings or universities to complete a short questionnaire to inform our future strategy and activity plans.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SCiPAlliance>

This short questionnaire takes around 15 minutes to complete. Your responses will help SCiP to identify the information or resources that will best enable professionals to support the educational progression of Service Children more effectively. The deadline to complete the survey is 3rd April.

Upcoming events

SSCE Cymru Conference 2018 – with a focus on Service Children with ALN

Cardiff City Stadium

Tuesday 12th June 9am-4pm

For more information and to register to attend please visit <http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/ssce-conference>

Resources

RBL Supporting Service Children in School in Wales – A Best Practice Guide

The Royal British Legion has recently launched new guides looking at ways to support Service Children in school. The guides share examples of good practice from across Wales and recommend ways in which Local Authorities, schools and families can improve Service Children's experience in education. The guides provide information on extra funding available to support Service Children, charities and agencies working in the field and how schools and local authorities can improve support.

<https://rbl-live1.bpl-dev.com/get-involved/campaign/support-for-service-children/>

Pupil Information Profile (PIP) for Service Children

A transfer document to be completed by previous school and sent with child to their new school to help with the transition of information regarding specific aspects of a pupil's background and learning.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-information-profile-for-military-service-children>

Moving Schools Guide

A guide for parents and an activity pack to help Service Children prepare for moving school.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/moving-school-packs>

Little Troopers

In 2017 the charity launched their Little Troopers at School initiative. The project objective is to help educate primary and secondary schools about the unique needs through circumstance of military children and make available easily accessible resources.

See the Little Troopers at School section of the website for the following resources

<http://www.littletroopers.net/littletroopers-at-school/>

- Information sheets written for schools covering various topics; Challenges faced, Ways you can support Service Children, Examples of what other schools are doing and many more.
- Primary School Resource Pack, full of over 30 resources that can be used to bring the military into school and support Service Children. Includes: Short Story, Literacy and Maths lessons, Role Play plans, everything to make a Little Trooper display board, USB full of forms and templates.
- Recommended reads guide – a compiled list of recommended and reviewed books schools could have in their library.

Moving Made Easier

This information booklet has been created with the help of a Charity called Fixer, working in partnership with the Army Welfare Service, by three young people from Service Families. The support booklet is to be used by children and young people when moving schools/home, especially relevant to forces children.

<http://www.fixers.org.uk/news/16590-11208/moving-made-easier.php>

School case study

Click [here](#) to see details of how Llantwit Major are working with the Service Children in their school.

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 millie.taylor@wlga.gov.uk



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

**The next SSCE Cymru Network Newsletter will be circulated by the end of June.
If you would like to contribute content to the next issue, please send it to
millie.taylor@wlga.gov.uk by 5th June.**