

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

#### **Supporting Service Children in Wales Fund:**

SSCE Cymru will be administering and managing the new £200,000 'Supporting Service Children in Wales Fund'. The grant application deadline is 4pm Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

Details of the fund and the application form can be found on the SSCE website:

<http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/supporting-service-children-in-wales-fund>

Welsh Government press release: <http://gov.wales/newsroom/educationandskills/2018/kirsty-williams-steps-in-with-200000-to-support-armed-forces-children/?lang=en>

#### **Local Authorities school admissions board:**

On 16<sup>th</sup> March SSCE presented to the Local Authorities (LA) school admissions board about the challenges that Service children (SC) face in education. We discussed how knowledge on the number and location of SC can help SSCE to offer schools the support they need. Following this meeting, some of the LA admission teams confirmed they will be amending their admissions process to help overcome this obstacle. Caerphilly and Flintshire are going to work with all schools in their LA to get a question about SC added to all enrolment forms.

#### **Research on experiences of Service families with children with Additional Learning Needs in education in Wales:**

Working in partnership with Arad Research (experts in education research in Wales) the Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care, University of South Wales was commissioned by SSCE Cymru to explore the experiences of Service families with children who have Special Educational Needs/Additional Learning Needs (SEN/ALN).

The report will be officially launched at the SSCE conference. It will be circulated to the delegates two weeks prior to the event and made available on the SSCE website from 12<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **Service children with ALN film and new digital stories:**

On 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May SSCE worked with Storyworks UK and four schools in Brecon and Monmouth to produce a film on Service children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). Teachers, ALN Coordinators, parents and researchers were involved in the filming project. We also conducted interviews with SC, to produce new digital stories. These films will be ready to show at the SSCE conference on 12<sup>th</sup> June and will then be available on the SSCE website:

<http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/ssce-films>

<http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/service-children-stories>

**For more information on the SSCE Cymru project please see [www.sscecymru.co.uk](http://www.sscecymru.co.uk) and follow us on Twitter [@SSCECymru](https://twitter.com/SSCECymru)**

**Please feel free to circulate the SSCE Cymru network newsletter to your own network and contacts. Anyone that would like to be added to the SSCE Cymru Network can sign up here:**

<http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/contact-ssce>

# SSCE Cymru Network updates

## The Royal British Legion – ‘Thank You’

This year, the Royal British Legion is asking the nation to say ‘Thank You’ to the First World War generation – to *All those who served, sacrificed and changed our world*. Those who fell on the battlefields. Those who returned home. Those who served on the home front, in the farms and factories. Those who built a new world – our world.

We invite you to join this movement and say ‘Thank You’ in your own way.

School children are invited to enter our Commonwealth-wide creative competition - paying thanks to the First World War generation in a song, a poem, or a work of art. The best of these may even be featured at The Royal British Legion’s Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, attended by Her Majesty The Queen and members of the Royal Family.

Young people can also hold a Thank You Day with fun events planned like a dramatic performance, an art and poetry exhibit, or a talk by local elders about what they learned about the war.

Details can be found on our Thank You website <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary/thank-you/>



## SCiP Alliance – Consultation report

The stakeholder consultation commissioned by SCiP Alliance and conducted by Tiller Research was aimed at addressing the following key questions:

- What are the main challenges practitioners face when supporting the education attainment and progression of Service children?
- What would most help practitioners to enable Service children to achieve their full educational and career progression?

The consultation report will be available on the SCiP website in June. <https://www.scipalliance.org/>

## Welsh Government – Additional Learning Needs film

Welsh Government have recently produced a short film on the changes to how Wales supports its children and young people with Additional Learning Needs.

[www.gov.wales/ALN](http://www.gov.wales/ALN)

## Barnardo’s – ‘Children Speak - Building Positive Futures’ film

On 11<sup>th</sup> April, the Barnardo’s Families of Veterans Support Service hosted their Film Premiere, ‘Children Speak – Building Positive Futures’ at Chapter Arts Cardiff. The film featured children and young people from the service who took part in a residential Outdoor Pursuits week at Plas Pencelli, Brecon in Feb 2018. The purpose of this Participation week was to give the children and young people, who have a Veteran in their family unit, to have their voices heard and to share issues that are important to them. Barnardo’s hope that any future service development for this sensitive cohort of children, will include consulting with Veteran’s children to ensure that their needs are considered in support services going forward. The screening was well attended by the children’s families and included key players from the Veterans Estate.

## The Royal Caledonian Trust – Teen Talks

In autumn 2017, three Teen Talks Student Conferences were held across Scotland giving young people from Armed Forces families the opportunity to come together and discuss issues that are important to them. Thanks to funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, RCET have also produced a Teen Talks leaflet and poster which highlight the issues that are important for our young people and their top tips for their parents, schools, and communities.

Lack of stable education, friends moving around and losing touch, not seeing parents when on deployment, moving to unfamiliar countries, different educational systems, civilians not understanding their challenges, scary deployments and not knowing if and when a parent was coming home – were just some of the issues the young people highlighted.

The Teen Talks leaflet will be available at the SSCE Conference on 12<sup>th</sup> June. More information is available on [www.rcet.org.uk](http://www.rcet.org.uk) and further copies of the leaflet are available from [admin@rcet.org.uk](mailto:admin@rcet.org.uk).

## Llantwit Major Comprehensive School activity

**Band Evening** - On Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Llantwit Major High School held a Band evening with Prince of Wales Division and RAF Voluntary Band. It was an enjoyable evening had by all and an opportunity for the community to link with our local MOD Base. The night raised £305 and all proceeds from the night are going to SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity.



**RAF Baton** - On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May some pupils had the opportunity to meet members from the RAF to see the Baton which had been produced at the local unit at RAF St Athan. The Baton had been made to mark the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force and had been relayed across the UK to various units.

Pupils were able to look and hold the Baton as well as some of them participating in a short relay on the school field before passing the baton over to another school. The event was also supported by local running club 'Major Milers Running Club' who collected the Baton from RAF St Athan, toured around Llantwit Major and then took the Baton back up to Camp.



## Army Welfare Service working with Brecon High School

Samantha Humphries (Community Support Development Worker) and Manju Bayambu (Gurkha Support Worker) from the Army Welfare Service (AWS), based at Infantry Battle School Dering Lines, have been working with Leah Burnett (Forces Families Support Officer) at Brecon High School. On a Monday AWS have been facilitating a drop in Lunch Club at the school where pupils can cook or bake and get to know the AWS team a little better. This term they have made Welsh cakes, pancakes, pizza and Mexican food. Brecon High School circulate a newsletter to their MOD parents include details of the clubs they run during and after school and trips they are planning over school holidays.

## Little Troopers Story Books launched

These beautifully written and illustrated story books follow military children through the sometimes slightly different life they lead and the situations they often find themselves in.

There are three book titles in the 'Dear...' series with a further three being released in the summer. These books are perfect for children who have one or more parents serving in the British Armed Forces. They would also be a great addition to any school library and equally to any child who experiences separation from a parent. Books can be ordered through this link:

[https://www.freewebstore.org/littletroopers/Little Troopers story books/p1281576\\_18561086.aspx](https://www.freewebstore.org/littletroopers/Little Troopers story books/p1281576_18561086.aspx)



## Upcoming events

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

Cardiff City Stadium

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 9am-4pm

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

If you are interested in having a market stall (free of charge) to promote the work of your organisation, please contact [millie.taylor@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:millie.taylor@wlga.gov.uk)

### SSCE stakeholders visit

Wales

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Following an interest from some key stakeholders, SSCE will be organising two days of activities and meetings. Giving representative from AFF, RAF FF, DCYP, CEAS and SCiP Alliance the opportunity to learn more about the Welsh education system and meet with Welsh Government, schools, HEFCW and other organisations.

### SCiP Alliance annual conference

Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, London

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 9.30am-4.30pm

<https://www.scipalliance.org/events/scip-alliance-annual-conference>

## Armed Forces Day Llandudno Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June

Armed Forces Day is a chance to show your support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to Service families, veterans and cadets.

For more information, visit <https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk/>

## Resources

### Welcome to Wales - Supporting and investing in our Armed Forces Community in Wales

A Welsh Government package of support for the Armed Forces community that includes background on the education system in Wales.

<http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/commsafety/160915-welcome-to-wales-armed-forces-en.pdf>

### Army Families Federation (AFF) – Army & You magazine

The latest edition is available here: <http://bit.ly/AYSummer18>

### Reading Forces

Reading Force is a tri-service shared reading charity that gives free books and scrapbooks to encourage Service families (serving, veterans and reservists) to share books and talk about them.

It is available to all Service families in all circumstances, at home or away, and is especially useful when a parent is away from home due to deployment or training as a way of staying close, and to keep in touch with grandparents and extended family living far away, helping maintain connectedness. Families take part at any time.

Reading Force resources are free and can be used by welfare settings, community groups and schools as part of their pastoral support, offering and distributing RF to Service families. Register on the RF website: [www.readingforce.org.uk](http://www.readingforce.org.uk)



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**The next SSCE Cymru Network Newsletter will be circulated in the Autumn.  
If you would like to contribute content to the next issue, please send it to  
[millie.taylor@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:millie.taylor@wlga.gov.uk) by 7<sup>th</sup> August.**