

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

SSCE Cymru will be administering and managing the new £200,000 'Supporting Service Children in Wales Fund'. The grant application deadline is 4pm Saturday 30th 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 16th 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 12th June.

Service children with ALN film and new digital stories:

On 9th and 10th 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 are now available on the SSCE website:

<http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/alnreport>

<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 and follow us on Twitter [@SSCECymru](https://twitter.com/SSCECymru)

SSCE Cymru Network updates

Kin and Country: Growing Up as an Armed Forces Child

The Children's Commissioner for England published a report on the lives and experiences of Service children. Looking at the impact of mobility and deployment and making suggestions on how to overcome these challenges. See the full report here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/kin-and-country-growing-up-as-an-armed-forces-child/>

MPCT

MoD Brecon Programme – An overview

Natalie O'Shea

"My role is to engage learners through the MOD project run at Brecon High School to develop key learning skills and their personal development attributes. As a member of the Military Preparation School (MPS) the delivery and support is based on a one-day a week visitation where I will coordinate several practical based learning sessions that looks to enhance the learners skills set through a holistic approach. Activities range from; problem solving scenarios, teamwork opportunities, building confidence through group cohesion and social interaction. Furthermore, I have supported learners through academic development and also developed a mentoring role for specific learners to coach and mentor in aspects both in and out of school support. The programme has been very successful, since starting at Brecon I have watched learners develop key leadership skills, build confidence, adapt their competence in communication and most importantly believe in themselves."

MoD Llantwit Programme – An overview

David Lee

"I have the pleasure of coordinating the Llanwtwit School MoD programme. Based on a one day a week visitation to schools I support learner's education development and guidance. I use my teaching experience from the Military Preparation School (MPS) mixed with my experience as an ex-service personnel to allow me to empathise and provide accurate and supportive advice to learners.

I coordinate lunchtime and afterschool clubs that look to develop positive social interaction through a practical syllabus. I support through academic studies providing in-class support and through a specific leadership award programme. Learners conduct an annual expedition and also have the opportunities to experience outdoors education through the Military Preparation School. Recently learners have attended the MPS Rhymney assault course coupled with an outdoors activity day. The diverse programme allows learners the ability to developed vital social skills and also key learning skills that can be implemented in their studies. Working closely with the Primary Schools within the catchment area I access on a rotation system ensuring maximum impact to all service based children."



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

Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Wales - CADET EXPANSION PROGRAMME

The Cadet Forces are widely recognised as some of the most successful uniformed youth organisations in the UK. The Cadet Expansion Programme (CEP) offers schools the opportunity to establish their own Cadet unit, adding to those that already exist in State and Independent schools across Wales.

Wales' first CEP Cadet unit is opening in Fitzalan High School in Cardiff. In May 2018 a further two Cadet units have been approved - Cardiff and the Vale College and Llandarcy Academy of Sport.

In Wales the CEP is a joint venture with the Ministry of Defence and Welsh Government's Education Directorate. Welsh Government endorses the Programme as it supports a number of Welsh Government initiatives, not least being Donaldson's Review of the school curriculum and its Enrichment and Experiences Programme.

The benefits of opening a Cadet unit can be huge, so if you would like to discuss this exciting opportunity further, please get in touch with the Schools Cadet Expansion Officer, Stephen John: 02920 375 740 or 07398130222 or wa-sceo@rfca.org.uk

Boom Cymru TV

Boom Cymru TV company is currently working on a children's series called #FI (#ME), which is a series about inspirational children from the ages of 8-18 which follow children and their special stories. What makes #FI truly special is that the programme is from the child's perspective (there are no presenters).

They are currently researching the possibility of doing a story on military children; What's it like being a military child? The impact and challenges of being a service family and living a military lifestyle? How do Service children deal with separation from a parent in the military? How moving a lot can be a difficult experience and how this can impact making friends, education and learning?

Contributors need to be Welsh speaking, between the ages of 8-18 and quite confident in talking openly about their life on camera. If you know of anyone that might be suitable, please do get in touch with sian.jones@boomcymru.co.uk

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 shortly. <https://www.scipalliance.org/>

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 12th June. More information is available on www.rcet.org.uk and further copies of the leaflet are available from admin@rcet.org.uk.

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/>



Grwp Llandrillo Menai

Grŵp Llandrillo Menai's Coleg Menai has teamed up with Greenpower, an educational trust, to offer schools in Môn and Gwynedd the opportunity to take part in an exciting project to build and race battery operated racing cars.

Ten secondary schools have already signed up to the project, which will see teams of year 9 students working to build a kit car, design the bodywork, arrange sponsors and ultimately race their cars at the regional finals, which are set to take place at Trac Mon / Anglesey Circuit on July 3rd. The winners will go forward to the international final at the Rockingham Motor Speedway at Corby later this year. A more basic kit car is available for primary schools to build and compete in slalom events during this event.

The initiative is part of a project, championed by Coleg Menai, to increase awareness of and ambition in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths amongst young people.

Once completed, the larger battery powered cars will be capable of reaching speeds of 30mph.

An Invisible Man

A theatre and media arts company committed to making work that makes a difference.

An invisible Man has two plays which have service families at the heart of them but the themes are universal and play just as effectively in schools with little or no service children.

Wherever Home Is...

Focusing on two 10 year old children who have both recently moved to the UK (from previous Armed forces postings in Germany) we hear their stories about previous moves but principally we focus on where they are now and what is possibly happening in the next chapters in their lives.

YOLO! (you only live once)

Focusing on a particular dramatic week in the lives of two 15 year olds in the same community we explore and highlight how even seemingly casual actions or choices we make can have huge repercussions on our lives, physically and emotionally.

For more information, see www.aninvisibleman.co.uk

Upcoming events

SSCE stakeholder day

Cardiff – venue TBC

Tuesday 18th September 10.30am-3pm

SSCE Cymru will be hosting an event to give stakeholders the opportunity to come together and discuss the challenges Service children face in education. These discussions will help to shape the focuses of SSCE Cymru. If you would like to attend the event, please email ssce@wlga.gov.uk and confirm if you have any special dietary requirements.

SCiP Alliance annual conference

Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, London

Monday 8th October 9.30am-4.30pm

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

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>

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



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



School case study

Click [here](#) to see details of how Priory Church in Wales Primary School and Kymin View Primary School are working with the Service Children in their schools.

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@wlg.gov.uk



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The next SSCE Cymru Network Newsletter will be circulated by the end of September, If you would like to contribute content to the next issue, please send it to millie.taylor@wlg.gov.uk by 4th September.