

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

SSCE Cymru conference

The second annual SSCE Cymru conference was held on 12th June 2018 at Cardiff City Stadium.

Thank you to all the speakers, exhibitors and delegates that attended and participated in the activities and workshops.

Following the conference, SSCE Cymru will reviews the suggestions and outcomes of the activities and continue to work with many organisations to overcome the challenges Service children face in education.

Download a copy of the agenda, presentation and notes on the activity feedback here: <https://www.sscecymru.co.uk/ssce-conference>

Supporting Service Children in Wales Fund

For the 2018/19 academic year, Welsh Government provided £250,000 to support the children of Armed Forces personnel in Wales.

41 applications were submitted across Wales and we are pleased to announce that 27 of these were successful in being awarded either full or partial funding.

For the full list of successful bids, see <https://www.sscecymru.co.uk/supporting-service-children-in-wales-fund>

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

MOD Education Support Fund (ESF)

In light of the ongoing drawdown from Germany and to provide time for educational authorities across the UK to bring in longer-term provision for Service children as necessary, the Secretary of State for Defence has announced the extension of the ESF, on a limited basis, for an additional two years. The fund will consist of £3 million in 2018/19 and £2 million in 2019/20.

The bidding round for 2019 is due to open on **Fri 14 Sep 2018**, closing at 1800 on **Fri 19 Oct 2018**.

The ESF is open to publicly-funded schools, Academies and Free Schools in the UK attended by Service children whose parents are subject to exceptional mobility and/or deployment. Applications from Local Authorities in support of these schools can also be accepted.

Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP), which is the MOD's professional focal point for all matters relating to children and young people associated with the armed forces, are the lead organisation administering and supporting the fund.

Further information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-support-fund-for-schools-with-service-children-grant-application-pack>

Estyn

Children of Service families have been added to the September 2018 '[Guidance handbook for the inspection of local government education services](#)' under section '1.2 Standards and progress of specific groups'. This will help in raising awareness of Service children to schools and local authorities.

Armed Forces Covenant training

The Armed Forces Training Package, developed by Cardiff and Vale College, consists of a face-to-face training pack and an e-learning pack. The training package is suitable for local authority elected members, frontline staff and departmental managers, officers and staff. The package explores such issues as:

- what is the Armed Forces Covenant;
- what is the Armed Forces Community;
- what issues can the Armed Forces Community face; and
- what are local authorities doing

The training package will be made available on the WLGA website shortly.

<https://www.wlga.wales/armed-forces-covenant-national-wales-project->

Welsh Government Armed Forces Scoping Exercise

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise by the nation, ensuring that people who Serve or who have Served, are treated fairly. The aim of the scoping exercise is to obtain an overall picture of existing provision for Veterans and their families across Wales. Please help Welsh Government to gather this data by completing the survey, which I will circulate a link to once it is available.

CEAS

The Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS) are part of the MOD's [Directorate Children and Young People \(DCYP\)](#). They are a small team who are experienced in advising service parents on a wide range of issues regarding the education of service children in the UK and overseas.

If you have ever had an interaction with the CEAS team, they would like to hear your feedback on the service offered; any views will be used to improve the service in the future.

They will be grateful if you would complete this anonymous survey for: [CEAS Satisfaction Survey](#)

CEAS are currently in the process of updating their leaflets and website!

Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS)

CWVYS is the independent representative body for the voluntary youth work sector in Wales, which involves 250,000 young people, 30,000 volunteers and 3,000 paid staff. CWVYS is also a membership body with (currently) 95 member organisations working across Wales. Should you be interested in finding out more, please contact helen@cwvys.org.uk and/or check out the website: www.cwvys.org.uk

GwirVol

A partnership of organisations in Wales who represent and promote youth volunteering in Wales through all its projects.

For more information, see <http://www.gwirvol.org/en/organisations/>

Eurodesk UK

CWVYS is one of the Eurodesk partners that aims to support the delivery and promotion of Eurodesk services in the UK. Trained to provide European information to young people and those who work with them on a local/regional/national level using the Eurodesk information tools. The partners work across the UK to ensure that as many young people become informed about the opportunities available to them. As part of that network CWVYS have access to a database of youth organisations across Europe, so if you have ideas for projects and you're looking for people to work with, CWVYS can find the right international partner for you. Contact helen@cwvys.org.uk

Children's University

Working in partnership with schools, the Children's University charity aims to develop a love of learning in children. They do this by encouraging and celebrating participation in extra-curricular activities in and outside of school. The impact of these activities is proven to be positive which is why they're committed to creating a level playing field of opportunity and opening up access to children of all backgrounds. For more information, see: www.childrensuniversity.co.uk

Army Welfare Service – Adventure Break

The Army Welfare Service Wales Team had a great start to the summer holidays, taking a group of over a hundred children from Forces families (over a two-week period) on a five-day residential adventure break to Plas Pencelli Outdoor Education Centre in Brecon.

The children from all over Wales experienced a variety of activities: Climbing the cliffs of the Gower, cycling and trekking through the Beacons, kayaking down the river Wye and enjoyed hanging about getting to know each other in the beautiful setting of the Centre.

At times the activities were challenging; walking up Pen Y fan with a backpack filled with lunch and flask of hot chocolate got hearts beating! All the young people involved can be extremely proud of themselves for their achievements throughout the week. AWS would also like to thank the centre staff who they highly recommended and the Royal British Legion for funding this experience.



Prendergast C.P School – Armed Forces Day

To celebrate Armed Forces Day 2018, Prendergast held a special assembly attended by the whole school. The children from the Military Kids Club Heroes also sold wrist bands and pin badges, raising over £300. Pictured below are the MKC children counting the money they collected.



Llantwit Major School updates

New MOD page has been added to the school website, which will highlight resources available for parents and pupils, support charities and any school information regarding events etc.

The school were successful with their application for the community covenant and will be receiving three silhouettes.

The school are in the middle of a Remembrance project, where they have created 50 poppies which will be displayed in the school garden and sold to the public after remembrance to raise money for the Royal British Legion.

Upcoming events

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>

Llantwit Major – Today and yesterday

Llantwit Major High school

Tuesday 13th November 10.30am

The event will consist of a short Remembrance service followed by refreshments. It is also an opportunity for our students, veterans and serving personnel to come together to share stories.

If you are interested in attending the event, please contact the school on:

llantwitmajorhs@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Resources

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. Some school activity packs have recently been added to the website:

Art

https://media.britishlegion.org.uk/Media/13591/art-activity-pack.pdf?_ga=2.182154663.1433178113.1534170413-1084699118.1534170413

Music

https://media.britishlegion.org.uk/Media/13592/music-activity-pack.pdf?_ga=2.182154663.1433178113.1534170413-1084699118.1534170413

Poetry

https://media.britishlegion.org.uk/Media/13593/poetry-activity-pack.pdf?_ga=2.182154663.1433178113.1534170413-1084699118.1534170413



‘Sometimes: My Daddy's Gone Away with Work’ book

Written by Clare Shaw, the books are very personal to the child as there are areas for them to write and draw how they are feeling. Written entirely in rhyme, with hints and tips from an educational psychologist woven into the text, this book is truly one of a kind. Please visit www.cskidsbooks.com to find out more. Clare offers the books at a discounted rate to schools and other establishments connected to helping services families, contact directly through the website for more information.

Naval Families Federation – Emotional Cycle of Deployment for Children

Deployment can be an emotional experience. Understanding the stages and feelings involved can help. This resource were created for parents, carers and schools.

<https://nff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Homeport-pull-out-Making-Sense-of-the-Emotional-Cycle-of-Deployment.pdf>

Reading Force

Reading Force is a tri-service shared reading charity that gives free books and special scrapbooks to all children, to encourage Forces families (serving, veterans and reservists) to share books, chat about them and fill in a scrapbook.

It is available to all Forces families in all circumstances, 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.

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

The new Reading Force website is now live and schools and settings can register online to receive scrapbooks for families and children: www.readingforce.org.uk



School case studies

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 December, If you would like to contribute content to the next issue, please send it to millie.taylor@wlga.gov.uk by 4th December.