

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

#### MODs Education Support Fund (ESF) – success in Wales

13 schools in Wales were successful in their applications for a total amount of £200,000. This money will fund various projects including staff, training and resources. Next year (2019/20) will be the final year that ESF is available.

#### Gathering data on Service children

At the beginning of 2019 SSCE Cymru will be writing to all schools in Wales to support them in capturing data on the number of Service children they have enrolled. It has become apparent that many schools assume they do not have any Service children, or aren't aware of this group of children, if they do not have an obvious military community. In England around 50% of schools have at least one Service child enrolled.

SSCE Cymru will be providing schools with a template to send to schools to capture this data and then ask them to inform SSCE of the number (not names) of Service children. SSCE can then offer schools with Service children support with raising awareness of the needs of these children.

This exercise has already been carried out in the Gwent Local Authorities, with the support of the Armed Forces Liaison Officer (Lisa Rawlings), which found a large number of Service children that SSCE was not previously aware of. For example, out of the 35% of schools in Blaenau-Gwent that have replied so far, 40 Service children have been identified. Before this exercise was carried out, SSCE was only aware of four Service children in Blaenau-Gwent.

#### Service children – Wellbeing and Mental Health support in Wales

As the awareness of SSCE Cymru has increased, so have the number of queries we receive regarding what wellbeing and mental health support is available to Service children. SSCE Cymru has produced a bilingual document which provides advice and signposts to organisations that can offer support in this area.

This document can be accessed on the SSCE Cymru website here: <https://www.sscecymru.co.uk/resources>

#### New films and digital stories

News films have recently been added to the SSCE Cymru website as part of #SSCEFilmFriday. These include:

- Brecon High School – Benefits of a Link Person
- A good practice film with Mount Street Infants School
- A good practice film with Kymin View Primary School.

Available here: <https://www.sscecymru.co.uk/ssce-films>

New digital stories have also been added to the website here: <https://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)**

# SSCE Cymru Network updates

## Armed Forces Covenant – Local Grants

The Covenant fund gives grants to community projects that are mutually beneficial to the Armed Forces community and the civilian community.

Projects range from building new nurseries in civilian areas which also have a high density of Armed Forces families, to funding military-themed community activities that increase understanding between the two communities.

For more information, visit: <https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/apply-for-funding/>

## SCiP Alliance

### Research briefing

The Service Children's Progression Alliance has launched the first in a series of research briefings, each examining the research around a specific aspect of Service children's education. The first two, about the impact of mobility and about A Level attainment, are available to download from the Alliance's website:

<https://www.scipalliance.org/resources/research-briefing-papers>

### "From evidence to action" conference

On 8th October 2018 the SCiP Alliance hosted 97 delegates from schools, colleges, universities, local authorities and charities at the Victory Services Club in London. Delegates looked at the latest research, explored examples of student voice initiatives and heard from Ofsted. The Office for Students delivered a presentation and encouraged HE providers to consider their provision for Service children and to work collaboratively through the SCiP Alliance hub network. Universities and colleges were able to learn from existing practice and make contact with potential partners. SSCE Cymru sat on the panel to discuss where further research is needed.

For more information and to download presentation slides visit the Alliance website:

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

## Welsh Government

### Wales remembers

Grants are available to secondary schools who are engaging in commemorative work to mark the centenary of WW1. This grant has been extended to April 2019.

For more information, visit:

<https://gov.wales/topics/culture-tourism-sport/wales-remembers/?lang=en>

<http://cymruncofio.org/en/>

### Veterans scoping exercise

The Welsh Government's Armed Forces team is currently running a scoping exercise to identify gaps in services for Veterans and their families in Wales. They would be delighted in hearing from you if you are **Ex-Service / a veteran**, a **family member** of someone who has served or an **organisation** working with veterans.

Access the survey here: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/JBE08/>

### Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme: Frequently Asked Questions

Welsh Government have updated the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme: Frequently Asked Questions document.

<https://beta.gov.wales/additional-learning-needs-transformation-programme-frequently-asked-questions>

If you have any additional queries about the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme, please contact [SENReforms@gov.wales](mailto:SENReforms@gov.wales)

[SENReforms@gov.wales](mailto:SENReforms@gov.wales)

### Loneliness and Social Isolation

The Welsh Government is currently consulting on how to tackle loneliness and social isolation. Given there is evidence that the Armed Forces community can be particularly susceptible to such issues, we would encourage partners to engage with this consultation process. Documents can be accessed here and the closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019:

<https://beta.gov.wales/connected-communities-tackling-loneliness-and-social-isolation>

## **Advice and Support from CEAS (Children's Education Advisory Service)**

CEAS plays an integral role in delivering the Directorate Children & Young People's (DCYP) vision that 'All our children and young people flourish and achieve their full potential'. They offer educational advice, guidance and support to Service families around such areas as school transition and admissions, 'retention of quarter' for educational reasons, CEA and SENA, Special Educational and/or Additional Needs, and education overseas, as well as many other areas of enquiry.

Contact: [DCYP-CEAS-ENQUIRIES@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DCYP-CEAS-ENQUIRIES@mod.gov.uk)

## **Torfaen County Borough Council**

### **Crownbridge Primary School pay tribute to the fallen soldiers of WW1**

Ex-service men and women from Torfaen joined with pupils and staff from Crownbridge School for a service to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First World War at Llanyrafon Methodist Church.

The service was opened by Crownbridge School head teacher Lesley Bush, followed by a short procession with standard-bearers through the church and a two minute silence.

Children from school choir paid a fitting tribute to the fallen service men and women of World War One by singing some classic wartime songs, including 'it's a long way to Tipperary' and 'Pack up your troubles', followed by the poem 'Never Forget' read by year 13 pupil Lewis Michael.

The morning concluded with a short story, capturing why poppies have such a significant place with remembrance to the First World War. This was followed by each pupil pinning their hand-made poppies to a cross whilst the sound of Vera Lynn's 'We'll meet again' played in the background.

### **Torfaen gypsy and traveller pupils raise £800 for Poppy Appeal**

Gypsy and traveller pupils from West Monmouth School raised £800 for the Royal British Legion by designing and selling their own poppies.

For the past five years, gypsy and traveller pupils at the school with support from Torfaen Youth Service, have designed, created and sold their own poppies in the run up to Armistice Day.

This year they created gold poppies to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. A service of remembrance was also held to remember the many gypsy travellers who volunteered at the outbreak of the war in 1914.

The project was part of the Travelling Young Enterprise Project which saw Torfaen Youth Service working with West Mon's Traveller Education Service and Blaenavon Royal British Legion.

## **Challenge Wales**

**Voyages of Discovery** - offers free sail training opportunities for young people aged 14-25. This is fully funded by The Big Lottery (until August 2019), and has been very successful over the past couple of years in addressing the personal development of young people through sailing activities, both short term and longer term residential voyages. There is plenty of adventure on the high seas, and of course valuable personal development opportunities for those who take part.

**Sailing schedule for 2019** – will be available on the website soon. Providing details on:

- Residential Voyages aboard both *Challenge Wales* and *Adventure Wales* around the British coastline.
- International Tall Ships Race (separate legs or whole journey) – Denmark, Norway, returning via The Netherlands.
- Tall Ships races and sailing festivals in British waters.

There are many bursaries for all of these voyages available for young people to keep the costs down, and no previous sailing experience is required.

For more information on the project, see: [www.challengewales.org](http://www.challengewales.org) or contact 02920 704657 on [reservations@challengewales.org](mailto:reservations@challengewales.org)

## Jon Egging Trust

Inspiring young people through teamwork and leadership, helping them to overcome adversity, identify their strengths and work towards their ambitions.

This term, the Jon Egging Trust have been working with Holyhead High School through the Blue Skies Programme, a three year programme focusing on teamwork, leadership and employability skills. They have also been working with three primary schools in the Isle of Anglesey, delivering Blue Skies Inspire Packages, which focus on teamwork and confidence building for a term.

This academic year, the Jon Egging Trust plans to work with four more primary schools delivering the Blue Skies Inspire Packages, as well as delivering one-off sessions to other schools.

These sessions are often delivered or supported by personnel from RAF Valley.

For more information, visit: [www.joneggingtrust.org.uk](http://www.joneggingtrust.org.uk)



## North Yorkshire County Council – good practice

In North Yorkshire 700 Service Children and Young People from 31 schools across the county gathered in Ripon Cathedral on 9th November for their annual Remembrance Service. This year's theme was ***There But Not There*** reflecting on the centenary of World War One and the experience of today's military children whose own serving parents and carers are also so often 'there but not there'. The service included a bespoke drama of letters from the front, spoken contributions from children about their own experiences, readings and prayers. It was also attended by the RBL whose standard bearers paraded alongside North Yorkshire's two MKC Heroes standards, VIPs from the military and civic communities and members of North Yorkshire County Council.

## Prendergast C.P School – Art Project

The school have been collaborating with the local day centre, to produce intergenerational art work that reflects 100 years since the end of WW 1. Here are some photos of the group working together.



## Kymin View Primary School update

Visit to Castle and Regimental Museum to learn about WW1.



Schools display WW1 memorabilia and tank that was decorated as part of a school cluster remembrance project.



## Upcoming events

### SSCE Cymru stakeholder day

#### RAF Valley

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 9.30am-3pm**

This will be the second SSCE Cymru stakeholder day. We will run workshops and discuss ways of overcoming the challenges Service children face in education in Wales. It will also be an opportunity for organisations to provide an update on their work.

Further details of this event will be circulated in the new year.

### North Wales Armed Forces Network/Delivery Group Event

#### Care and Repair North East Wales, Deeside

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm-5pm**

This event is to bring all stakeholders together to showcase what they do for the AFC in North Wales (and further afield) and to help facilitate further collaborative work.

For more information, contact: [Stephen.Townley@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.Townley@wrexham.gov.uk)

# Resources

## Naval Families Federation

### The Emotional cycle of deployment

Deployment can be an emotional experience. Understanding the stages and feelings involved can help. These resources were created for Service personnel, spouses, parents, carers and schools.

Adults: <https://nff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/making-sense-of-the-emotional-cycle-of-deployment-pdf.pdf>

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

### 'Zoe and the Time Rabbit' book

The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Children's Fund have commissioned a book aimed at younger children. <https://www.rnrmchildrensfund.org.uk/zoe-the-time-rabbit/>

## SCiP Alliance – UCAS guidance

The Service Children's Progression Alliance has worked with UCAS to develop guidance tailored to applicants from Service families. The leaflets, downloadable from the Alliance website (<https://www.scipalliance.org/resources/ucas-guidance-for-service-children-and-schools-colleges>), set students' experiences in context and give schools and colleges the information they need to help Service families navigate the admissions process.

The Alliance website also lists further sources of support and information on specific issues for Service families around financing higher education:

<https://www.scipalliance.org/resources/student-finance-guidance>.

## Forces Additional Needs and Disability Forum (FANDF) – guide

This guide intends to offer families with challenging issues a step towards finding some answers to these questions.

[https://www.ssafa.org.uk/sites/default/files/file/and\\_guide\\_2018.pdf](https://www.ssafa.org.uk/sites/default/files/file/and_guide_2018.pdf)

## Lifting the lid on transition report

The families' experience and the support they need.

<https://www.fim-trust.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Transition-Final-Report-FINAL-ONLINE.pdf>

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

The latest edition is available here:

[https://issuu.com/armyandyoumag/docs/army\\_you\\_winter\\_2018?e=9218182/65625125](https://issuu.com/armyandyoumag/docs/army_you_winter_2018?e=9218182/65625125)

# School case studies

Click [here](#) to see details of how schools across Wales 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 [ssce@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:ssce@wlga.gov.uk)



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

**The next SSCE Cymru Network Newsletter will be circulated in the Spring 2019,  
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> March.**