

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

Service children data collection

Kirsty Williams AM, Minister for Education, has committed to collecting data on Service children in Wales. In the meantime... SSCE Cymru recently wrote to all schools in Wales, providing a draft letter to be sent to parents, to identify Service children in schools. 410 schools replied, identifying more than 1,600 Service children in 310 schools. Nearly half of these schools had only one or two Service children.

SSCE Cymru stakeholder day

On Tuesday 19th March 2019, SSCE Cymru ran its second ever Stakeholder day, at RAF Valley in Anglesey. The day included updates from various organisations, including DCYP, SCiP Alliance, NFF and the AFLOs. The 30 delegates also participated in workshops aimed at updating old and creating new SSCE Cymru resources. For a copy of the agenda, presentations and minutes, 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)

Please feel free to circulate the SSCE Cymru newsletter to your own network and contacts. Anyone that would like to be added to the SSCE Cymru Network they can sign up here: <http://www.sscecymru.co.uk/contact-ssce>

SSCE Cymru Network updates

SCiP Alliance – Supporting Service Children in Schools project

If you are a school with Service children currently enrolled please help by taking this survey, to contribute towards the framework. It should take between 15-30 minutes to complete, however, please be aware that you may need to access school data while completing some of the questions. Part of the survey is framed towards the English education system so if a question is incompatible please select 'n/a'.

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QRPLYPW>

Armed Forces Covenant Small Grants

Up to £20,000 for local projects to support community integration or local delivery of services. Next application deadline: 5th June 2019.

For further information, visit:

<http://www.covenantfund.org.uk/local-grants-and-digital-development-programme/>

Good practice example – HMF Education Support Officer in Newport and Monmouthshire

Newport and Monmouthshire were successful in their application to the MODs Education Support Fund, for a post that will work with schools to help increase their understanding of how to support Service children in education.

Good practice example – Aneurin Bevan Health Board CAHMS support

Aneurin Bevan Health Board have now determined Service children as a priority group. Meaning Service children requiring urgent CAHMS support in the Gwent Local authorities will be fast tracked during the referral process.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) draft code – implications for Service children

The Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code is *statutory guidance* for Education providers and settings in Wales, including schools and further education institutes and also key partners in Health and Social Services.

Chapters of the draft code, relevant to Service children:

- Chapter 3: involving and supporting children, their parents and young people
- Chapter 5 Duty to keep additional learning provision ALP under review
- Chapter 7: The definition of ALN and ALP, identifying ALN and deciding upon the ALP required
- Chapters 8 to 12 – Duties on schools, FEIs and local authorities
- Chapter 9: Duties on maintained schools and local authorities in relation to children and young people at maintained schools in Wales
- Chapter 23: Children and young people in specific circumstances.

Specific mention of Service children in the draft code:

Chapter 5 *Duty to keep additional learning provision under review*

"Local Authorities will have to consider the particular needs of any Service communities within their boundaries when providing or planning additional learning provision for Service children and young people with ALN"

Chapter 23: *Children and young people in specific circumstances*

"Children and young people of Service Personnel..."

For full details on how Service children are detailed in the draft code, contact: tracey.pead@torfaen.gov.uk

Army Families Federation – 'Service Children's Voice' questionnaire

AFF are interested to hear from children of Service personnel in the Army, to find out how they are affected by postings, loss of friendships, gaps in learning and more. The survey is due to close on 5th April 2019. Further details can be found here: <https://aff.org.uk/news/lets-listen-to-our-service-children/>

Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare (RNRMW)

RNRMW offer a range of services to Naval personnel and their families, across the UK and overseas:

- Accessible and confidential Specialist Welfare services provide practical advice and support individuals, their families and the Executive and Divisional/Regimental system, ensuring essential bespoke support as and when required.
- Community Support with events and activities being planned across the UK, as well as leading the Naval Service Youth Forum.
- Information Support produce topical information sheets whilst also resourcing information which is disseminated through several digital platforms ensuring our dispersed families can access support wherever they may reside worldwide.

Contact: navynps-peoplesptrnrmwportal@mod.gov.uk, 02392 728777

www.royalnavy.mod.uk/forums

Help for Heroes

In Wales, Help for Heroes Community Recovery Team delivers holistic support to wounded, injured and sick veterans and Armed Forces personnel who have been affected by their military service.

Activities include:

- One-to-one key workers identify priority areas to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing, helping with practical issues like financial support, housing, relationships and signposting to partner agencies.
- Sports Recovery sessions take place across communities in Wales. Activities include swimming, mixed ability rugby, walking football, cricket, pilates, circuits, spin and body pump.
- Band of Brother and Sister Fellowship activities take place at monthly hubs in conjunction with the regular sports sessions.
- Child-friendly activities for veterans and their families to come together and enjoy everything from craft sessions to dolphin spotting, international rugby matches at the Principality Stadium and canal boat trips.
- Veterans' Clinical Liaison is a qualified nurse who can provide expert advice and support to individuals with medical needs, delivering advocacy and assistance in accessing health services.
- Sessions on Sleep Hygiene and the Help for Heroes' Pathfinder Experience in Wales.

For more information, contact: wales.supporthub@helpforheroes.org.uk, 01443 808910

Woody's Lodge – South Wales

Based at the Amelia Trust Farm, Barry, Woody's Lodge is a social hub, which guides veterans to the help and support they need to re-engage with their families and communities. In the first six months, they received over 1,200 visitors from the Vale and Cardiff. Woody's Lodge also acts as a base from which 20 charitable and statutory agencies work, including: The Royal British Legion, NHS, Department of Works & Pensions, Recovery Cymru, NEXUS, Barnardos and SSAFA.

With partners Age Cymru and Age Alliance Wales, Woody's Lodge have been successful in obtaining Armed Forces Covenant Funding to work with veterans of 60 years and over, to help them overcome the challenges they face, in particular those relating to physical and mental health, social welfare, finances and housing.

Woody's Lodge have recently set up a monthly P.A.C (Partner And Children) Lunch, where families are invited to share experiences and build a support network for each other. They also signpost families to different organisations across Wales, including TGP Cymru.

A second Woody's Lodge is located in North Wales, at Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay.

Contact: support@woodyslodge.org, 01446 781792

Facebook: WoodysLodge

www.woodyslodge.org

TGP Cymru

A leading independent Welsh children and families charity with projects across Wales offering advocacy, participation, counselling, family group meetings, restorative approaches and conflict resolution. They provide independent and confidential support to children, young people and families including those experiencing disabilities, emotional health needs and children seeking asylum.

One such project is the 'Restorative Approaches for Veterans and Families' service, where TGP Cymru work alongside the Veterans NHS Wales Service to support the families of veterans experiencing service-related mental health difficulties:

<https://www.tgpcymru.org.uk/what-we-do/restorative-approaches-veterans-and-family-services/>

<https://www.veteranswales.co.uk/>

School updates

Llantwit Major High School

Fundraising

To support the commemoration of the 100th year Anniversary of WW1, pupils held a 'Wear red' to school day, raising £542.85, which was split between ABF The Soldiers' Charity, The RAF Benevolent Fund, The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, The Royal British Legion and SSAFA The Armed Forces Charity. The school also sold British Legion Merchandise, raising £106.41 for the Poppy Appeal.



RAF ST Athan

On Friday 9th November, pupils attended the Armistice Service at RAF St Athan, conducted by Padre Steve Lamond. Pupils represented the school at the service, which was attended by Trainees at No4 School of Technical Training, serving Personnel, civilian staff and families of Military Personnel.

Field of Remembrance

On Wednesday 7th November, three pupils attended the Field of Remembrance service in Cardiff organised by the Royal British Legion. The tradition of planting a Field of Remembrance started in 1928, when the Poppy Factory took a group of disabled veterans a tray of poppies and a collection tin to the grounds of St Margaret's Church, Westminster. The men gathered around an original wooden cross that had been planted there, taken from the battlefield grave of an unknown British soldier. Some of the men began to push poppies into the ground, curious passers-by stopped to ask questions and before long they began buying and plating poppies of their own – creating the very first Field of Remembrance. The pupils laid poppy crosses in Cardiff Castle Grounds and then stayed to watch the service, which was attended by serving personnel, veterans and the public.



Upcoming events

Festival of Music

Cardiff Bay

Saturday 4th May 2019 4-5pm

The event will consist of the Red Devils parachute display team jumping into the Bay and at least five Military Bands performing the musical finale in the Oval Basin.

North Wales Armed Forces Day

Holyhead

Saturday 25th May 2019

Health Board Armed Forces Forums:

***Aneurin Bevan**

Raglan Barracks, Newport

Thursday 11th April 9.30am

***Hywel Dda**

Picton Barracks, Carmarthen

Wednesday 22nd May 10.30am

Armed Forces Community Covenant Forums:

***Torfaen**

Pontypool Civic Centre

Tuesday 2nd April 10am

***Neath Port Talbot**

Bulldogs BCA centre in Baglan, Port Talbot

Wednesday 1st May 10am

***Blaenau Gwent**

Ebbw Vale Civic Centre

Monday 15th April 2pm

***Cardiff and Vale**

Vale of Glamorgan Civic Offices

Wednesday 15th May 2pm

Resources

Naval Families Federation

The Experience of Parental Absence in Royal Navy and Royal Marines Families:

<https://nff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Parental-Absence-Resource.pdf>

The effect of non-operational family separations on family functioning and well-being among Royal Navy and Royal Marines families:

<https://nff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/NFF-Executive-Summary.pdf>

Army Families Federation (AFF) – Army & You magazine

The latest edition is available here: <http://bit.ly/AY-Spr19>

Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare (RNRMW) – Schools pack

The schools pack provides snippets of information on many of the resources available to support Service Children, with some publications noted being available to order for free. The pack can be requested by emailing nrmwio@royalnavymail.mod.uk noting 'Schools Pack' in the subject box.

School case studies

Click [here](#) to see details of how Cyfarthfa High School in Merthyr Tydfil 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



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**The next SSCE Cymru newsletter will be circulated in the Summer 2019.
If you would like to contribute content to the next issue, please send it to
millie.taylor@wlga.gov.uk by 7th June.**