

SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN IN EDUCATION - WALES FUND: 2019-20 INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDANCE

Background

The Welsh Government's Supporting Service Children in Education Wales Fund¹ has been extended for 2019-20 to overcome the gap in support available to schools and local authorities as a result of the reduction in funding available under the Ministry of Defence's (MoD) Education Support Fund (ESF) which is now in its last year. £250,000 has been made available for the 2019-20 academic year to assist maintained schools in Wales, to mitigate the challenges that children of Armed Forces (AF) personnel can face due to their AF lifestyle, which include the effects of mobility and deployment.

The new fund is administered and managed for the Welsh Government by the Supporting Service Children in Education (SSCE) Cymru Project based at the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA).

The Welsh Government funded SSCE Cymru aims to provide the best possible educational support to children, by ensuring education professionals understand the issues Service children in Wales may face. For more information see www.sscecymru.co.uk

Successful applications under last year's Supporting Service Children in Wales Fund were for a wide range of initiatives, and were all able to provide strong evidence of how their proposal would help Service children and the school overcome the challenges of an AF lifestyle, the bids also demonstrated a good relationship with their Service community.

2019-20 Guidance

We are seeking bids that will equip Service children with the skills to cope with the challenges of an AF lifestyle both now and throughout their schooling. Bids that show long term impact and exchange of knowledge with the school, amongst staff, and across clusters of schools will be particularly welcome. We would encourage schools to bid in clusters to enable the sharing of resources and skills across local schools.

Applications to the 2019-20 fund are for one year. Payment will be made by the end of December 2019 for academic 2019-2020. Audits will be carried out by SSCE Cymru in December 2020 to check the money has been spent as stated in the application and assess the impact of the scheme.

INSTRUCTIONS

Eligibility

To be eligible, a school must be in Wales and must have at least one Service child. For the purpose of this fund, the SSCE Cymru definition of a Service child is:

- A child who has one or both parents currently serving in the armed forces
- A child whose parent/s are currently serving as Reservists

Or

- A child whose parent/s have transitioned out of armed forces within the last 18 months, and has therefore recently experienced mobility or deployment.

Applications **can** be accepted from;

- Maintained Schools
- 6th form colleges
- Groups of schools – ‘Cluster bids’ are strongly encouraged
- Local authorities on behalf of the publicly funded schools in their area.

If applying as a cluster, an individual school can also submit their own separate bid, provided it is for a different initiative (no double bidding allowed).

Not Eligible

- Childcare providers
- Colleges of higher education or further education
- Commercial organisations or those that would seek to charge for their proposal to be provided to a school, for example an organisation could not be awarded a grant to develop a training course which it then charged schools to attend.

Criteria

The applicant must provide evidence that schools face specific challenges because of the impact of an AF lifestyle on Service children. These challenges may be caused by the effect of **mobility** or where parents are subject to **deployment**.

- **Mobility refers to the whole family moving from one location to another resulting in a move of school for the child**
- **Deployment refers to the Service Person being away from home, either on operation or a long term training exercise. It does not have to mean to a conflict zone.**

Challenges that Service children face in education may include:

- Numerous school moves
- Emotional impact of separation
- Emotional impact during deployment
- Emotional impact on parent/s return from deployment
- Impact on family lifestyle when parent/s transition out of the Armed Forces
- Repeating curriculum content (after a move)
- Missing curriculum content (after a move)
- Adapting to different curriculums in different administrations
- Making friends
- Missing friends and family from previous school/home
- Learning Welsh
- Participation in extra-curricular activities

- Choosing GCSE subject options (which may not be available if they move schools)
- Getting to school
- Choice of school
- Confusion when learning areas of the curriculum that are related to their parents' job (eg. war or religion).

The Fund cannot be used for infrastructure projects. Contributions to smaller scale refurbishments, such as adapting current spaces, and indoor or outdoor equipment are acceptable.

Any successful application that requires the hiring of staff should ensure that all parties are aware they are not being employed by the WLGA, or the Welsh Government, but by the successful applicant of the fund.

The award of a grant is not a commitment to further funding and should just be regarded as a one off payment for the application round for which it is awarded.

Applicants are entitled to make one individual bid each and can also be included in a joint or cluster bid with other schools.

Application Form Guidance

Bids to the fund have been for a wide range of projects, schemes, and initiatives and there is no set prescription for a successful bid. The bid needs to show;

- a. What the project plans to do
- b. How it helps overcome the challenge of an AF lifestyle
- c. Be evidence based
- d. Show value for money
- e. Prove engagement with the Service community
- f. Identify any longer term benefits

Extra material should not be included with the application and panel members will not read any additional information. The application will be judged on the content of the form.

Applicants should adhere to the word count and if this is exceeded applications will be rejected.

Application forms must be completed and submitted electronically.

No personal data relating to children should be included.

Application Form Notes for Completion

Note 1. If submitting a joint bid please provide a list of **all schools** included in the bid with their address details, total number of children and total number of Service children.

Note 2. Please separate out any parts of the bid and cost them individually to enable the Funding Panel to easily identify partial funding opportunities (this may maximise the likelihood of you being awarded at least partial funding). There may be a delay in funding allocation if a breakdown of costs is not provided or is added up incorrectly.

Note 3. Armed Forces person supporting comments. It may be helpful and add strength to the application to obtain support from a member of the Armed Forces. This person can give context to the service community in this location; it can be a member of the Armed Forces other than the parent, or the Armed Forces Regional Panel. Please see the SSCE Cymru '[Service children – funding guidance for schools](#)' for further advice.

Note 4. Due to the high demand of the fund, partial funding may be awarded so it is helpful to know the priorities of the bid.

Scoring

The Fund is limited to £250,000 in 2019-2020 and is not guaranteed in following years. All bids are reviewed and scored by a funding panel made up of Welsh Government officials, SSCE Cymru, and the Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP) at the MoD.

The panel will not make any assumptions or consider any supplementary evidence. Bids are scored according to the content of the application form only.

Each bid is considered on its merits. No priority is given to one of the bid categories over the other, nor to the success of a previous bid.

There is no appeals process – applications will be based on the content and strength of the bid. Those applications which are not successful may request feedback from the SSCE Cymru which will be based on the comments from the panel.

Timings

Applications will need to be received by 30 September 2019 – there are no exceptions to this. Any application received after this time will not be considered by the panel.

Each application will receive an acknowledgement along with a unique bid reference number, which must be quoted in any subsequent correspondence. **It is the applicant's responsibility to chase for this unique bid reference if it is not received within five working days of submitting the application.**

The applicant must inform ssce@wlga.gov.uk of any change to their email/contact details.

Applicants will be informed of the success, or otherwise, of their application by 31 October 2019. Payments will be made by end December 2019.

Audits

Audits of the 2019-20 funds will take place in December 2020. The WLGA on behalf of the Welsh Government will request proof of spend of the fund to check it is as per the application and any evidence of its impact.

Help and assistance

Questions and completed application forms should be directed to ssce@wlga.gov.uk