

# MONTHLY BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2026



# Message from the SSCE Cymru team

*"As February arrives, y mis bach brings a welcome lift to the year. Although it's still winter in Wales, the lighter days hint that spring isn't far away, and the upcoming half term offers pupils and staff a well-earned pause before the busy months ahead.*

*This year, the SSCE Cymru team has already been hard at work, meeting to shape exciting plans for Month of the Military Child 2026. We're really looking forward to hearing how schools across Wales will be celebrating their Armed Forces connected children and young people, and we're ready to support you every step of the way. If your school is thinking about running an activity, event or project and would like help accessing funding, you'll find plenty of ideas and guidance on the [SSCE Cymru Month of the Military Child webpage](#).*

*And with Valentine's Day on the horizon, we'll leave you with a little reminder: Roses are red, violets are blue, if your school supports Service children, we're here for you! You can reach our team at [SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk) Diolch/thank you!"*



**Millie**  
Programme  
Manager



**Jo**  
Participation  
Lead Officer



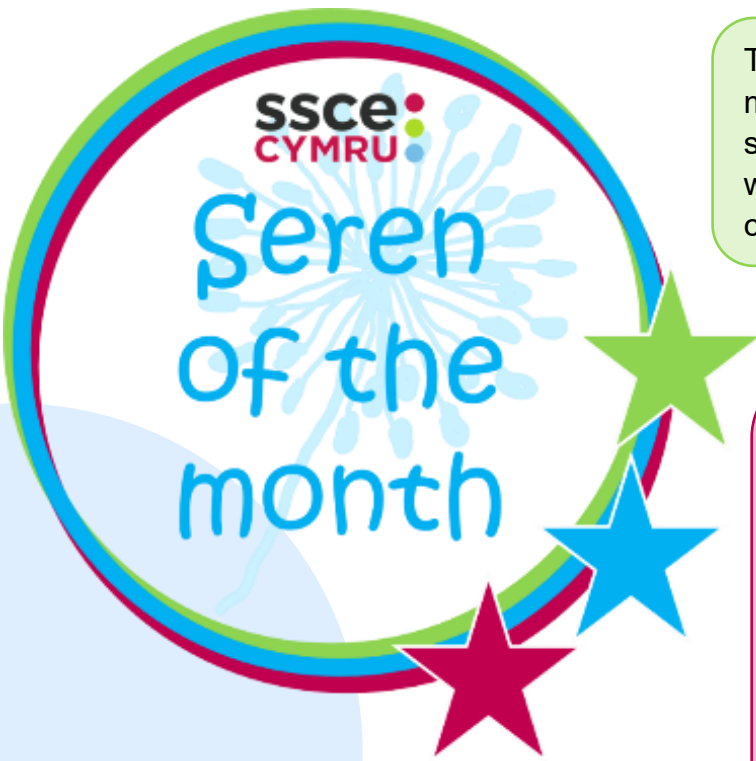
**Yasmin**  
School Liaison  
Officer



**Cara**  
School Liaison  
Officer



**Becca**  
School Liaison  
Officer



This is an opportunity for our team to publicly recognise an SSCE Cymru STAR, and say thank you to a Service child, member of school staff, work colleague, network member or organisation that have positively collaborated with us or shown exceptional support to Service children in education and their local Armed Forces community. We are grateful to work with some truly inspiring individuals and groups who ensure that Service children continue to feel valued and celebrated here in Wales.

## Seren of the month – February 2026

Cllr Liz Roberts, Ward Member for Betws y Coed & Trefriw and Conwy County Council's Armed Forces Champion, is recognised as February's Seren of the Month for her exceptional dedication to the Armed Forces community and to Service children and young people across Conwy. In her role, Liz has taken part in a wide range of events, meetings and conferences, always showing a genuine commitment to ensuring these children and their families feel supported and understood.

Her proactive nature and the professional insight she brings make her a valued contributor at every engagement. Liz consistently looks for opportunities to strengthen partnerships and highlight the needs of Service children within the region. The SSCE Cymru team are incredibly grateful for her continued support, advocacy and willingness to champion the voices of Armed Forces connected learners.

We would also like to acknowledge the vital contribution of Conwy's Education Services. Their ongoing collaboration with SSCE Cymru ensures that schools across the county receive the guidance and encouragement needed to support Service children effectively. Together, their collective efforts are helping to create a more informed, connected and supportive environment for Armed Forces families throughout Conwy.



**Cllr Liz Roberts**  
Conwy County Borough Council





SSCE Cymru's Armed Forces Friendly Schools (AFFS) Cymru initiative was launched in 2022. Schools in Wales complete a series of activities and actions that are linked to the SSCE Cymru School Checklist, including some compulsory elements, in order to achieve their Bronze, then Silver, then Gold status. The objectives are to embed good practice for supporting Service children, create a positive environment for Service children to share their experiences and encourage schools to become more engaged with their Armed Forces community.

**Congratulations** to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. So far, 46 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 46 have achieved Bronze, 13 have achieved Silver and 7 have achieved Gold!!!



46



13



7

# Service children data collection 2025/26

SSCE Cymru are supporting local authorities to collect \*Service children data this year. Therefore, we kindly ask you to complete our online data collection form to confirm the number of \*Service children in your school and provide us with the most up to date accurate record of where Service children are across Wales.

**Note:** Please also let us know if you have no Service children currently enrolled at your school.

Previous data indicates that over 35% of schools in Wales have Service children enrolled, with around half of those only having only 1-2 Service children.

## **\*Welsh Governments definition of a Service child:**

*A 'Service child' has parent(s) or person(s) exercising parental responsibility who is/are Service personnel serving:*

- *In HM Regular or Reserve Armed Forces – Royal Navy and Royal Marines; British Army and Royal Air Force, Or*
- *Is an Armed Forces Veteran who has been in Service within the past two years, Or*
- *One of their parents died whilst serving in the Armed Forces and the learner has received a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme.*

## **Why we ask you to capture data on Service children:**

- Identifying Service children allows schools to provide them with appropriate support
- Schools can access funding to support the needs of their Service children
- Comparisons can be made on attainment levels between Service and non-Service children
- Local authorities can prepare to support Service children with their mental health and wellbeing needs
- SSCE Cymru can provide schools with support, resources and training to better understand and support their Service children based on their unique experiences and needs.

Please  
submit  
your data  
ASAP

Click here  
to submit  
your data

# SSCE Cymru e-learning

**Last year, SSCE Cymru launched our highly anticipated NEW on-demand, bi-lingual, e-learning training package on *Supporting Service children in education in Wales!!!!***

Funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, the SSCE Cymru e-learning training package has been designed to give educators the tools and confidence to understand and support the needs of Service children within their education settings in Wales however, the training can be accessed by anyone who would like to learn more about supporting Service children within education.

This FREE training package consists of nine topics and will take roughly two hours to complete. Your progress will be saved so that you can continue where you left off and revisit the training as required.

## **Topics included in the e-learning:**

- Introduction to SSCE Cymru
- Armed Forces in Wales
- Service children's experiences
- Education in Wales
- Identifying Service children
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Extra-curricular activities
- Funding to support Service children
- Research and evidence.

*"Great links that I will use and very comprehensive. I loved the videos."*

*"There are several parts of this training that will impact my support and practice within my schools."*

*"The voice clips and case studies were really helpful throughout."*

**100% of participants found the e-learning beneficial**



**ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT**  
LLUOEDD ARFOG  
CYFAMOD



# SSCE Cymru snakes and ladders game



The SSCE Cymru team are excited to launch this new resource, as a way of recognising that Service children face both positive and challenging experiences.

The game can be used during Service children voice activities or as a fun CPD resource for staff.

The quotes included on the game are taken from some of the Service children voice activities we have run over the past year.

We enjoyed playing a large floor size version of the snakes and ladders game at our first Armed Forces Festival in West Wales in October.

Contact [SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk) to request a **FREE** snakes and ladders game for your school





Mis y Plentyn  
Milwrol

Month of the  
Military Child



Ebrill/April | #MotMCCymru

## Ways for schools to get involved...

- Understand
- Engage
- Celebrate



See further  
information  
here

**ssce**  
**CYMRU**

SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN  
IN EDUCATION WALES  
CYNORTHWYO PLANT MILWYR  
YN YSGOLION CYMRU



# Mis y Plentyn Milwrol

## Month of the Military Child



Ebrill/April | #MotMCCymru

### 'Purple up' day!!!

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April is the day to 'Purple up' for Month of the Military Child!**

- Wear purple
- Create purple artwork and displays
- Take a photo of what you get up to
- Send your photos to [SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk)
- Post your photo/s on social media (tag @SSCECymru on [X](#) and [Facebook](#)) using the hashtag **#MotMCCymru** – with a message to Service children, thanking them for their important role in the Armed Forces community.



Click here to see how others have participated in 'Purple up' day in previous years



**ssce**  
**CYMRU**



CLILC  
WLGA

# Funding...

## Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund (SSCE-WF)

In 2025/26, schools and local authorities (LAs) in Wales can apply for funding throughout the year, to deliver projects specific to supporting Service children in education, linked to the curriculum in Wales.



Ariennir gan  
**Lywodraeth Cymru**  
Funded by  
**Welsh Government**

£1,000 projects – open to all schools and local authorities in Wales.

£3,000 projects – open to schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru Bronze status and all local authorities.



See further  
information here

**FINAL  
DEADLINE:**  
13<sup>th</sup> Mar

## SSCE Cymru case management support

Case management is available to schools that have an individual Service child or a very small number of Service children with a specific need related to the impact of their Armed Forces lifestyle.



See further  
information here

## SSCE Cymru funding advice

These documents provides advice from the SSCE Cymru team for schools and local authorities, to assist them when applying for funding to support Service children / local Armed Forces community. The checklist includes suggested actions to help when preparing and completing a funding application. The ideas and suggestions document includes examples of activities that applicants could incorporate as part of funded projects to support Service children.

Available  
here

## Funding drop-in sessions

These informal drop-in sessions are aimed at supporting schools and local authorities in Wales with accessing funding to support Service children in education.

### Upcoming drop-in sessions:

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 09:00-10:00  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 09:00-10:00  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 15:30-16:30



See further  
information  
here