

MONTHLY BULLETIN

JANUARY 2026



Message from the SSCE Cymru team

"Blwyddyn Newydd Dda – Happy New Year! 🌞 We're stepping into the Spring term with fresh energy, new ideas, and plenty of excitement for the year ahead! If your school is thinking about hosting a community celebration for your military connected children, now's the perfect time to start planning. Your School Liaison Officer is ready to help you explore fun possibilities and talk through funding options. Or if you're looking to boost your school's support for Service children, we'd love to hear from you. Drop us a message at SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk and let's work together to make great things happen.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead – full of creativity, connection, and brilliant opportunities for Service children in Education in Wales!"



Millie
Programme
Manager



Jo
Participation
Lead Officer



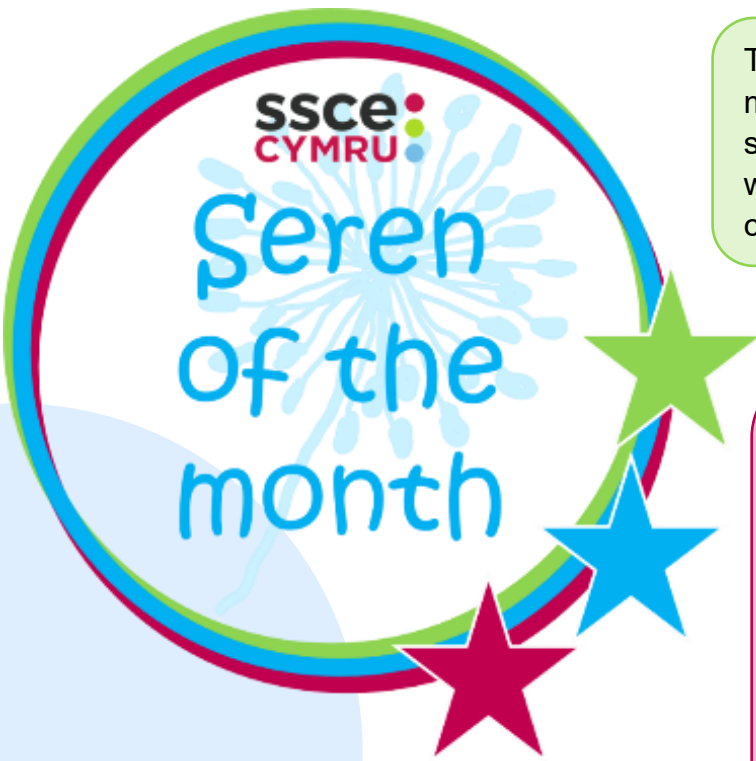
Yasmin
School Liaison
Officer



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 – January 2026

Congratulations to Major Andy McGuffie, Regimental Quartermaster at 203 (Welsh) Medical Regiment, Cardiff. You are our Seren for January!

From the moment the SSCE Cymru team met Andy, he went above and beyond to support us in hosting the Armed Forces Festival in South Wales. Andy kindly provided a venue that enabled us to bring together 90 Service children from across the region. He also organised for some fantastic Reserve personnel to deliver a first aid workshop for the military-connected children and young people, where they learned basic first aid and lifesaving skills. This brilliant workshop introduced participants to a different branch of our Armed Forces, helping them understand the wide variety of professions that make up the military collective.

In addition to this, Andy has generously offered ongoing support to our schools in South Wales, helping us continue to build positive relationships between education settings and the Armed Forces community.

A huge thank you to Andy for bolstering our efforts. We truly appreciate your support and enjoyed working with you and the team.



Maj Andy McGuffie
203 (Welsh) Medical Regiment



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

SSCE Cymru Journal

The SSCE Cymru journal provides an overview of the activities and events that the SSCE Cymru team and network members have been involved with. The following are some of the recent additions to the journal.



**Armed Forces
Festival – East Wales**



**Armed Forces
Festival – North East Wales**



**Armed Forces
Festival – North West Wales**



**Armed Forces
Festival – South Wales**



**Support Paws visits Raglan
CiW VC Primary School**

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.

DEADLINE:
31st Jan

***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.

**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 to request a FREE snakes and ladders game for your school



Service Pupil Promise

An initiative designed to celebrate, support and empower military connected children and young people by giving them a direct voice in shaping the support they receive from schools and local authorities.

A Service Pupil Promise is a commitment from the local authority to support children from Armed Forces families ensuring we listen to their voices and strengthen the local authority's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.



Pembrokeshire County Council

In partnership with SSCE Cymru, Pembrokeshire County Council's Education Welfare Service has launched the first Service Pupil Promise (SPP). The project included over 60 military connected children who took part in events/workshops to help develop the promise, giving them a direct voice in shaping how schools and the local authority support them. During the activities, the Service children had the opportunity to reflect on the impact of Service life, share their experiences and views, consider how their schools support and celebrate them whilst also identifying what more could be done to improve provision for Service children. They enjoyed a range of creative and reflective tasks culminating in the creation of individual school pledges e.g. "We promise to look out for each other while our parents look after our country."

The local authorities promise was launched in November and includes 'What you told us' and 'What we promise'.

The SSCE Cymru team are now working with other local authorities to support them with delivering workshops/events to produce their own Service Pupil Promise. Initially, these local authorities include Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Powys.

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

**NEXT
DEADLINES:**
30th Jan
13th 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:

Wednesday 14th January 09:00-10:00
Monday 26th January 15:30-16:30



See further
information
here