

**SSce**  
**CYMRU**



SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN  
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN  
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



# MONTHLY BULLETIN

MAY 2026



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 CLILC  
WLGA

# Message from the SSCE Cymru team

*“During April, we marked the International Month of the Military Child (MotMC) a chance to recognise Service children and young people, and to thank them for the unique strengths they bring to school life. Across Wales, schools, local authorities and SSCE Cymru network members took part in assemblies, dandelion artwork, creative writing, Armed Forces themed physical activities, and ‘Purple Up’ Day. At a time when news from around the world can feel uncertain, and conflict continues to affect families and communities, these moments of connection matter more than ever. Schools play a vital role as places of routine, safety and belonging, where every child can feel seen, heard and supported. For more news and photos from MotMC celebrations, please visit the [SSCE Cymru Month of the Military Child](#) webpage.”*



**Millie**  
Programme  
Manager



**Jo**  
Participation  
Lead Officer



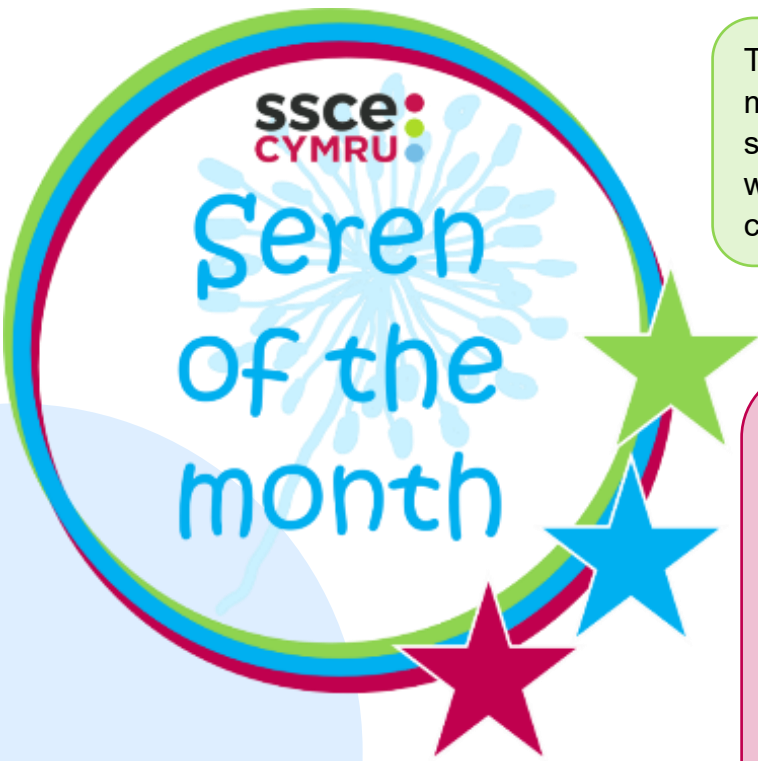
**Yasmin**  
School Liaison  
Officer



**Cara**  
School Liaison  
Officer



**Becca**  
School Liaison  
Officer



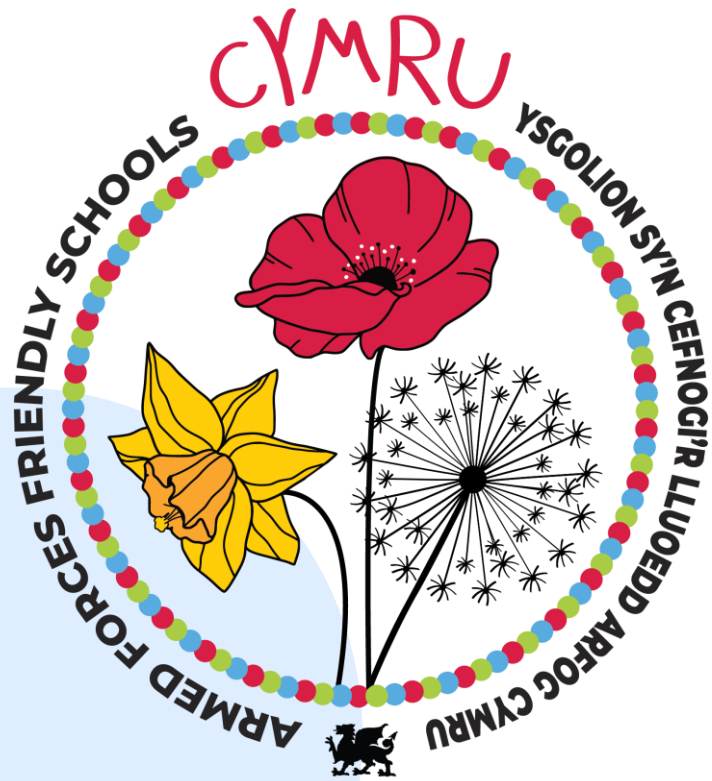
This is an opportunity for our team to publicly recognise an SSCE Cymru STAR, and say thank you to a Service child, member of school staff, work colleague, network member or organisation that have positively collaborated with us or shown exceptional support to Service children in education and their 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 – May 2026

Finola is a highly valued champion for the Armed Forces community in Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, and Bridgend, strengthening coordinated support for serving personnel, veterans and their families, including those with mental health and wellbeing needs. With more than 17 years' experience in youth and community work, she brings significant expertise and empathy to the role. SSCE Cymru is grateful for Finola's consistent collaboration and practical support, including promoting our work, attending the South Wales Armed Forces Festival, and working closely with local authority colleagues to strengthen local networks. She has also supported Service Pupil Promise events in Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot, helping to ensure Service children and young people feel recognised, listened to and included. Finola is currently co-ordinating an Armed Forces Festival for Swansea based Service children on behalf of the local authority, and the SSCE Cymru team are pleased to support the event. Opportunities like this help Service children connect with peers who share similar experiences, while celebrating the wider Armed Forces community in a positive and inclusive way. Congratulations, Finola, and diolch yn fawr for your continued commitment and partnership; we look forward to working with you on future projects.



**Finola Pickwell**  
Regional Armed Forces  
Covenant Liaison Officer



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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.

This month, we are pleased to congratulate the following schools for achieving their AFFS Cymru status:  
**Silver:** Ysgol Caergeiliog (Isle of Anglesey)

**Congratulations** to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. So far, 49 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 49 have achieved Bronze, 16 have achieved Silver and 8 have achieved Gold!!!



49



16



8



[Click here for further information about Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru](#)

# SSCE Cymru e-learning

**In April 2024, SSCE Cymru launched our highly anticipated 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 Armed Forces Festivals held across Wales at the end of 2025.

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



# Service children's songs

During [Month of the Military Child](#), SSCE Cymru launched five songs, written by Service children across Wales in collaboration with songwriter practitioner, Otto Aday, from [Never Such Innocence](#).

The songs, which were created during the SSCE Cymru Armed Forces Festivals, shine a light on their thoughts, feelings and lived experiences of Service life. These powerful pieces capture pride, resilience, connection and the realities of growing up in a Service family in their own voices 🎵



# SSCE Cymru resources

## Supporting children in times of conflict

**SSCE Cymru has a webpage dedicated to providing resources relevant to supporting children and young people during times of conflict.**

Although some of the resources refer to a specific conflict, many of the resource can be applied to other conflicts. Times of conflict and crisis affect many families, Service and civilian, and a school community plays a vital part in ensuring our families feel safe and supported during a potentially challenging time.

### Some of the resources included on the webpage include:

- [SSCE Cymru: Recommended resources Padlet](#)
- [UNICEF: How to talk to your children about conflict and war](#)
- [Childline: Worries about the world](#)
- [Save the Children: How to talk to children about war](#)
- [Barnardos: Talking to children about war](#)
- [The British Psychological Society: Supporting children to manage anxiety over war, conflict and crises](#)
- [Place2Be: Talking to children and young people about war and conflict](#)

# Mis y Plentyn Milwrol

## Month of the Military Child



It's been incredible to receive lots of photos from schools and local authorities, showing us how they celebrated Month of the Military Child 2026!  
Don't forget to send your photos to [SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk), so they can be added to the [SSCE Cymru website](http://SSCE Cymru website).

Ebrill/April | #MotMCCymru

**i** Click here to see details of #MotMCCymru activities



# Mis y Plentyn Milwrol Month of the Military Child



Ebrill/April | #MotMCCymru



## A message from some SSCE Cymru, Service Child Ambassadors:

*"We hope you had a great Month of the Military Child 2026!*

***Thank you** to every school and every Service child who shared your voice and helped make change happen. Because you spoke up, listened to others, and took part in Service Pupil Promise activities and other events; during April, the Welsh Government updated its definition of a Service child. This means more children and young people in Wales will be recognised and can access understanding and support in school and beyond, including children whose parent or carer has served in the last six years, and those who have lost a parent or carer while serving. Your stories mattered. Your ideas mattered. And your courage has helped ensure Service children are seen, valued, and better supported across Wales. Please keep talking, keep looking out for each other, and keep reminding people what life is really like for Service children. We are proud, and grateful to schools for standing with Armed Forces families."*

# Upcoming events

**DO YOU WORK WITH CHILDREN FROM ARMED FORCES FAMILIES?**

YOUTH/SOCIAL/COMMUNITY WORK  
SCHOOLS • NHS • SPORTS CLUBS  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES  
ACTIVITY CENTRES

Tell us what works!

Service Children's Progression  
**ALLIANCE**  
IMPACT CENTRE

 **IMPACT CENTRE LISTENING TOUR**

**WALES** | 05/06/2026 **CARDIFF**  
07/07/2026 **ANGLESEY**

**FIND OUT MORE & BOOK AT**  
[scipalliance.org/events](http://scipalliance.org/events)

 **CAN'T MAKE IT?**  
Other ways to tell us what you think here


University of Winchester ethics approved: HSE16208



## ARMED FORCES DAY

Armed Forces Day is a chance to show your support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community: from currently serving troops to Service families, veterans and cadets.

#SALUTEOURFORCES

 [Click here for further information about how to get involved](#)

### National Armed Forces Day in Wales 2026

**DATE:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**VENUE:** Pembrey Country Park, Carmarthenshire

This year, Carmarthenshire will be hosting Wales' National Armed Forces Day! It is free to attend and aims to bring the public together in support of the Armed Forces community.

# Funding


## Welsh Government funding

In 2026/27, the Welsh Government Education Directorate are providing funding for the full SSCE Cymru team (Programme Manager, School Liaison Officers and Participation Lead Officer). Funding will continue to be available to schools and local authorities in Wales through the Case Management support programme and a small grant scheme. Full details to be confirmed in September 2026.



## 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:

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 15:30-16:30
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 09:00-10:00
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 09:00-10:00

 [See further information here](#)


# Funding

## Service Pupil Support programme 2027

The MODs Service Pupil Support (SPS) programme will award grants between £5,000 to £150,000 towards a standalone project being delivered over a period of up to two years, to supporting Service children along their educational pathway.

The SPS programme is open to schools, Further Education settings and local authorities.

*NOTE: Schools are encouraged to work collaboratively and apply in a cluster.*

 [See further information here](#)

### Project themes for 2027 are:

- Closing the gap.
- Support for service pupils with ALN.
- Mobility, deployment and separation.
- Low numbers of service pupils.

**DEADLINE:**  
**30<sup>th</sup>**  
**September**