The SCiP Alliance Annual Conference 2023: Identity Matters

**Birmingham, 29 November 2023**

# Identity Matters – the conference theme

This year, the SCiP Alliance Annual Conference will gather practitioners, researchers, policymakers and funders to focus our collective attention, expertise and effort on the question of Service child identity: on Armed Forces children and young people’s *identities*. Together, we will explore why identity matters, broaden our understanding of the diverse expressions of what it means to be a child or young person in an Armed Forces family, and how, by considering identity matters in our work, we can help Service children to flourish.

Through our own practice, through research evidence, through the words of Service children themselves, we know that identity is not only about present perceptions, but also about the foundations built from past experiences, as well as possibilities for the future – one in which we want all Service children to thrive. Identity matters.

For a fuller explanation of the rationale for and focus of the conference theme, please read the full narrative [here](https://www.scipalliance.org/news/2023/scip-alliance-conference-2023).

# Workshop format

Workshops will last 60 minutes and follow a common format designed to balance the sharing of specific examples of effective practice between members of the Alliance Community with identifying and developing principles and priorities important to effective practice in general. The outline format will be:

* **Practice input – presentation of a specific example of practice covering (20 minutes)**
  + Why you did it – describe the rationale for your work, what were you trying to achieve and for whom: it is helpful to know what challenges you sought to address or aims you wanted to achieve, including any evidence for the need and important contextual factors.
  + What you did – describe the practice: members find it useful to know the *key features* of the specific project/intervention. Your experience will have helped you understand better what is distinctive about your work and which parts might be considered the main elements important to achieving its purpose. Delegates will have opportunity after your presentation to ask questions, so they can focus on details that will help translation to their own work after your presentation.
  + How it helped – summarise the results you saw from your work. Whether rigorous quantitative analysis, feed-back/testimony from Service children, families or professionals, or something else, it is helpful to share something about the impact of your work. It can be also be helpful for others to hear what did not turn out as expected and your reflections on why.
* **Any questions? – Q&A with delegates about your presentation/practice (20 minutes)**
  + Allowing a good amount of time for questions from delegates helps them focus on: 1) the things that help them understand your work more deeply and 2) learning that will help them translate your practice into their contexts.
* **Discussion – facilitated discussions on conference-wide themes (20 minutes)**
  + The workshop chair will steer a discussion to help delegates place your practice in the context of the conference theme: identity matters.
  + Together with you, delegates will look for learning from your work that could help the Alliance Community enhance its understanding of why identity matters and how to work in ways that reflect its significance.
  + For information, the discussion will consider questions like: how have (either/both) the unique, shared and changing features of Service child identity been important in your work? How can similar work encourage the recognition, exploration or valuing of Service child identity, whether unique, shared or changing.

# Workshop invitation

Please use the table below to tell us about your proposed workshop, including how it fits with the conference theme outlined in the [conference narrative](https://www.scipalliance.org/news/2023/scip-alliance-conference-2023): ***Identity Matters.*** For example, where/how in your work have you:

* Seen the significance of and/or responded to the diversity of experiences among Armed Forces children and young people?
* Balanced the individual and shared sense of identity felt by Service children, or the multiple and changing identities of individual children?
* Forged new relationships with partners to better understand and respond to identity matters?

We would favour workshops demonstrating the application of evidence to practice, the centrality of Service child voice and co-production, or the use and impact of the Thriving Lives toolkit, but welcome proposals featuring any work supporting our vision of Thriving Lives for Service Children.

Link to application form: [Microsoft Forms](https://forms.office.com/e/ht8z6fPiPX)

Submission

Please ensure applications are received by the 30th of September. We will respond within 2 weeks. If we approve your workshop, we will need any PowerPoint presentations by 10th November. Slides will be shared publicly – please get in touch if you would prefer yours not to be included.