

We will be recording in line with our privacy policy, which you can find on our website

Service Children's Progression



*Welcome to the Thriving Lives toolkit webinar series
Session 2: Supporting Service children in schools
with small cohorts*

- All delegates are muted
- Please introduce yourself in the chat

January 25

<https://www.scipalliance.org/thriving-lives-toolkit>

TODAY'S SESSION

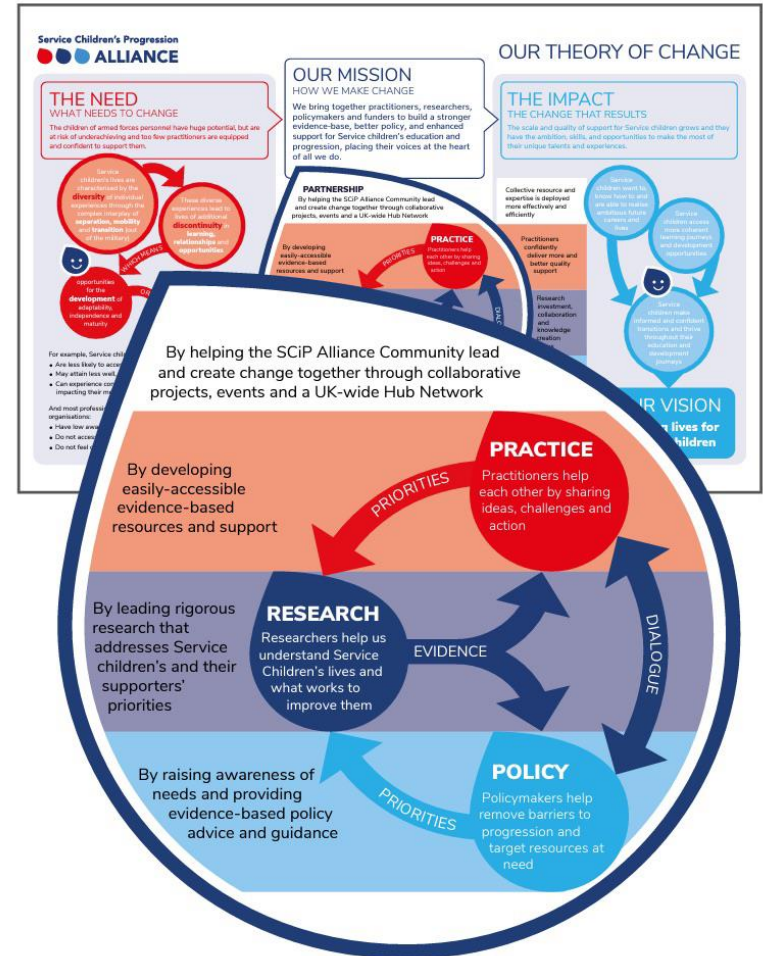
Headteacher and Deputy Head of Cwmclydach Primary School, Linsey Owens and Kayley Phillips

Armed Forces Education Trust CEO, Charmian Hickman

Thriving lives for Service children

OUR MISSION HOW WE MAKE CHANGE

We bring together practitioners, researchers, policymakers and funders to build a stronger evidence-base, better policy, and enhanced support for Service children's education and progression, placing their voices at the heart of all we do.





Thriving Lives Toolkit

Underpinned by rigorous research and thoroughly tested in schools, the [Thriving Lives Toolkit](#) provides schools with a framework of 7 principles through which to reflect on their practice and a 3-tier set of CPD resources. The resources in this toolkit have been developed in collaboration with a range of partners across the UK, and consist of:

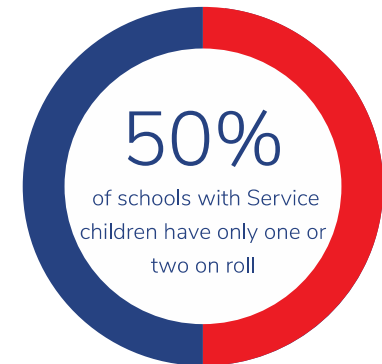
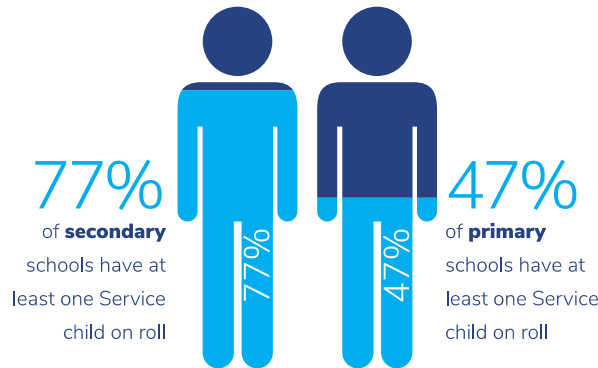
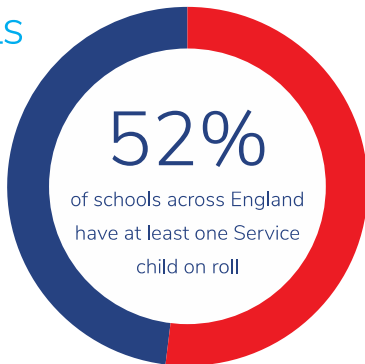
- An introductory animation;
- A detailed resource introducing the evidence base (PowerPoint)
- School case studies.

Service children as a cohort

- **567,253** 0 to 24-year-olds in veteran families (ONS, 2023)
- **121,600** 0 to 17-year-olds in serving families (MOD 2022)
- **76,625** eligible for Service Pupil Premium (England only)

Distinct
Diverse
Dynamic...

SCHOOLS



Online Targeting Tool – England only

The SCiP Alliance [online targeting tool](#) supports professionals working with Service children by:

- Driving increased engagement in work supporting Service children's education and progression
- Supporting those working with the Service children to better target and plan their investment and activity.

The tool allows those planning work in support of Service children's education and progression to answer such questions as the following:

- What is the size of the population of Service children in my local area?
- How does that compare to national data?
- How are those children distributed across my area's schools and how does this compare nationally?



Local Authority	SC	Cumulative	
		Count	Percentage
1. Wiltshire	7280	7280	10%
2. Hampshire	7135	14415	19%
3. Lincolnshire	4405	18820	25%
4. North Yorkshire	3555	22375	29%
5. Oxfordshire	2920	25295	33%
6. Plymouth	2620	27915	36%
7. Cornwall	2305	30220	39%
8. Devon	1945	32165	42%
9. Suffolk	1875	34040	44%
10. Somerset	1760	35800	47%
11. Gloucestershire	1740	37540	49%
12. Dorset	1590	39130	51%

National data
 76625 Service Children in 10680 schools, which is 53% of all schools

Selected regions

Wiltshire
 7280 Service Children in 215 schools, which is 93% of all schools

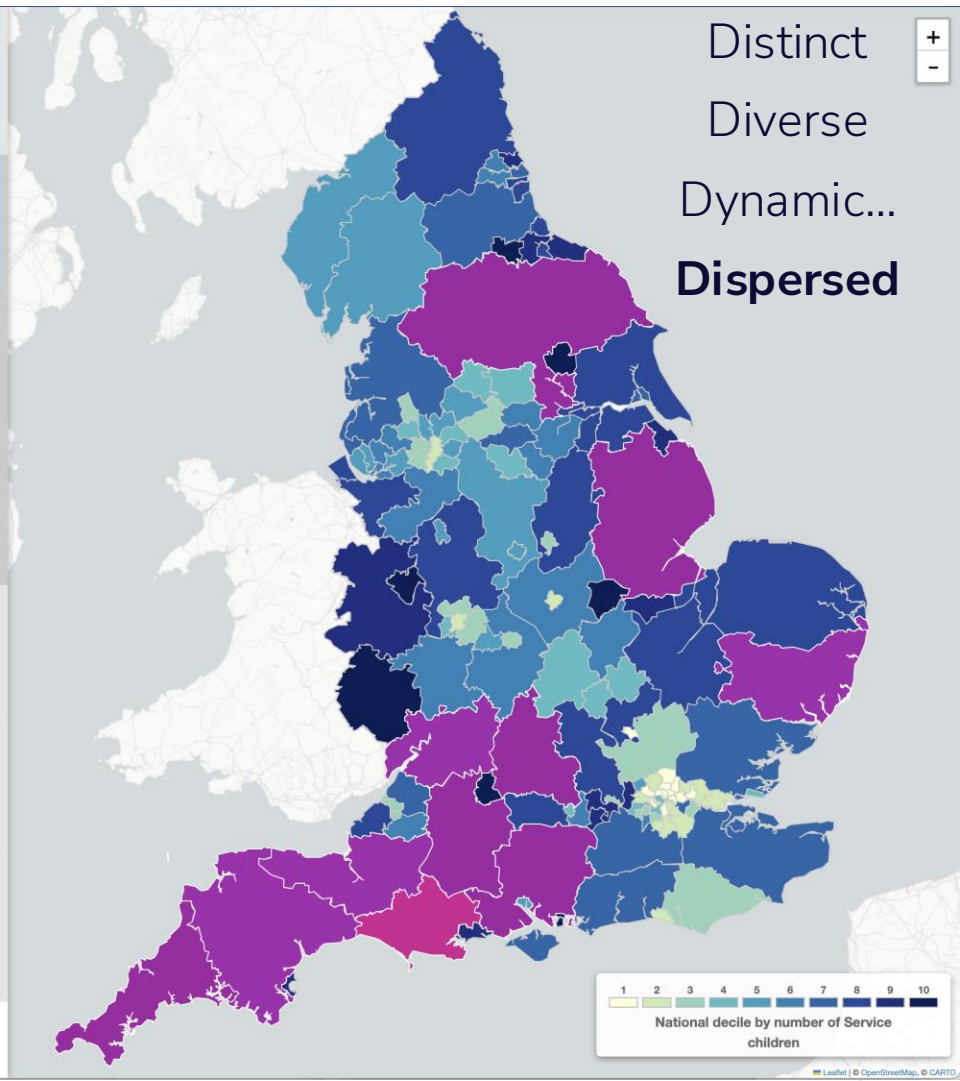
Hampshire
 7135 Service Children in 430 schools, which is 88% of all schools

Lincolnshire
 4405 Service Children in 275 schools, which is 82% of all schools

North Yorkshire
 3555 Service Children in 230 schools, which is 67% of all schools

Oxfordshire
 2920 Service Children in 180 schools, which is 64% of all schools

[SCIP website](#) [Our hubs](#) [About this map](#)





Headteacher: Linsey Owens

Deputy Head: Kayley Phillips



Thriving Lives toolkit webinar

Supporting service children in
schools with small cohorts



Our Staff

- 7 Full time teachers
- HT in post since Sept 21 (previous DHT)
- DHT in post since Sept 21
- 3 members of SLT
- 9 TAs
- 2 HLTAs
- 1 full time SNSA
- 1 care taker
- 1 school cook, 1 assistant cook
- 2 additional kitchen staff
- 4 lunch time support staff

Our Classes

- 7 main stream classes
- Including full time nursery provision
- LA Nurture provision
- Class sizes are 30 pupils or below
- 178 pupils on role
- Age 3-11 years

Our Locality

- English Medium in Clydach Vale
- Served community since 1880
- High level of unemployment- 3rd generation of unemployment
- Pupils from a mixture of council and private housing.
- Large school building with lots of ground and space
- Very strong links with local community
- School in the heart of the community
- School offers a diverse range of experiences and opportunities for our learners

Our Pupils

- 38% FSM
- 8 pupils have an IDP/ statement
- 7 pupils with ASD diagnosis
- 9 pupils with ADHD diagnosis
- 3.08% pupils with EAL
- 5 CLA pupils
- 4 Extended CLA pupils
- 3.08% pupils - medical need
- Attendance for 2022/23- 87.90%
- FSM Band 5
- 1.5 days exclusion 2022 / 2023
- 0.5 days exclusion 2023/ 2024
- 9 days exclusion 2024/25
- 0.55% Service children



Well-being support for learners



TIS Strategies

Baxter Project

Nurturing Schools

Invisible Walls

Seren Breakfast

EAA

Parental Engagement Courses

ELSA



Our Journey

Met with School Liason Officer who introduced us to SSCE and the audit tool.



Completed Bronze Audit and began needed work



Identified Service children and notified families



Cluster Event took place



Communicated with Cluster Schools



Funding Sourced for individual support



Little Troopers Established



Armed Forces Day Cluster Celebration



Thriving Lives Toolkit



Quotes



"It is wonderful to hear about all the amazing support you have given to the Service children at your school and the continued positive engagement with the Armed Forces community in your area."

Millie Taylor
SSCE Cymru Programme Manager

"Congratulations on attaining Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status. I am very proud of the support schools in Wales are giving to the children of our Armed Forces. I want all children and young people to be supported to achieve their best. It is right that we recognise and celebrate your achievements."

Jeremy Miles MS,
Education Minister, Welsh Government

"On behalf of the military community based or settled in Wales, I'm thrilled that this scheme recognises the vital support our children receive in the wonderful schools that we are blessed with right across Wales. Thank you for your amazing support and for continuing to nurture the education of our children as a Forces Friendly School. Congratulations for this special recognition."



Brigadier Andrew Dawes CBE, Head of the Army in Wales



IMPACT!!



All staff are now aware of our Service Children and their needs

Increase in knowledge of how to support Service Children

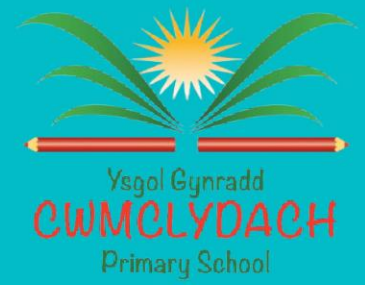
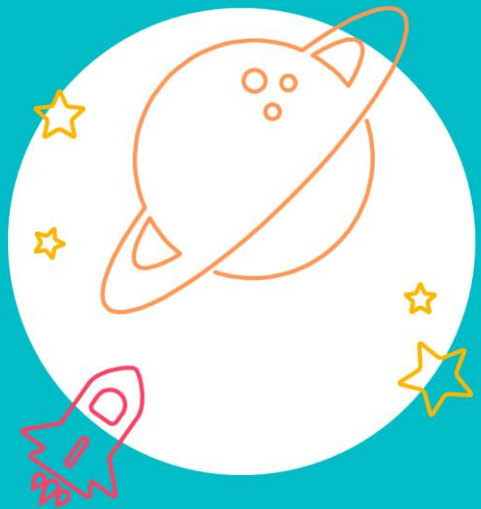
Intervention experience for Service Children

Increased whole school awareness of the need to support Service Children

Children more willing and able to talk to staff about worries

Links made with Cluster Schools which will be taken through to Secondary.





Thank you for listening

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ARMED FORCES EDUCATION TRUST

Educational Grants so Service, and ex-Service,
children don't miss out



Our Purpose

We are here to help mitigate the disadvantage that sometimes befalls children of members of the armed forces. We support the most disadvantaged children to improve education that has been compromised or put at risk by their parents' service.



Why seek our help?

- Mobility
 - Transition
 - Gaps in learning
 - Changes in syllabus during key exam stages
- Emotional difficulties
 - Deployment
 - Weekending
- Devolved nations
- Isolated schools

Add SEND/ALN/ASN and challenges increase



Experiences of Service children with SEND/ASN/ALN

- Systemic Challenges (Eg ALN/ASN processes)
- Mobility issues – “queues” and different “offers”
- Discontinuity of support, including staff
- Parental separation/ one-parent challenges
- Schools’ growing caseloads
- Disproportionate funding challenges



How we can help

- Past 5 years Trust has given grants of over £2.5 million.
- Helped numerous service children through **individual & collaborative grants.**
- Helped 100s of service children through **collective grants.**
- Budgeted grant spend of £670k per annum.



Collective Grants

- Addressing issues that may result from facets of Service life such as mobility and deployment
- Grants to schools with Service/ ex Service children for various education related purposes.
- Supporting projects that help service children but for which there is little or no additional funding available.
- Emotional support for Service children
- Seeking to finance or partially finance interventions where service pupil improvement can be demonstrated.



Individual Grants – Boarding schools

- Grants given to individuals (meeting criteria) for educational purposes
- Can cover education related fees or specialist support
- Help vulnerable children who need to board, in conjunction with other charities
- Support continuity of education during key stages of education



Collaborative Grants

- We recognise the distinctive experiences of Service children with SEND/ASN and the schools that support them
- The Trust has helped schools give such children 1-1 support while additional funding is sought
- Grants may also be given for catch up support in schools where gaps in learning exist due to mobility





The Garrison ASSIST Project+

A series of animated films created by the Catterick Garrison ASSIST Project's Parent Forum December 2024

[GAP Intro
Video](#) –
Living in
our SEND
shoes

The purpose of these films is to help school staff, and other professionals, gain a greater awareness of the difficulties that some Armed Forces families with children with special educational needs and / or disabilities (SEND) face. Whilst not all military families with SEND children have negative educational experiences, many do because of the requirements of their Service.

Introductory film (6 minutes)

It is recommended that this short introductory film is watched first. This provides an overview of the Garrison ASSIST Project (GAP) 2022-2025, before introducing the six contributing parents and their backgrounds. An accompanying PDF about these six parents could then be printed for viewers to refer to whilst they watch the other films.

Success Stories – Josie



- Josie's Dad was posted back from America, where Josie had been diagnosed as Autistic and given the 1-1 support she needed in school
- On return to the UK the diagnosis was not accepted and the family and school had to start again
- Temporarily employment of a 1:1 LSA allowed support of Josie's needs in core areas of learning.
- She has now secured funding so this support will be able to continue.



Success Stories – Herne Primary School



- Engaged a local artist to work with a diverse group of service pupils to produce "A Tribute To Our Amazing Armed Forces"
- Children were from Army, Navy and RAF families
- Art was a stimulus for discussion, enabling the group to talk about and share their experiences of being in a Service family.



Success Stories – Upton by Chester High School



- Employed a Service pupil mentor who:
 - Worked with Service pupils who had been identified as underachieving or who required specific support
 - Worked with parents and pupils to improve their attendance
 - Gave transition support to the large number of pupils due to move to Cyprus as part of battalion posting



Success Stories – South Farnborough Infants

- Regular play therapy targeted at the most vulnerable amongst the service community within the school
- Gave these Service children the opportunity to express their fears and worries in a safe and familiar 1:1 environment
- Gave the children strategies to overcome issues and prevent conflict and language to help them ask for support if they need it



Success Stories – Festival of Friends

- Collaborative /peer support to develop service child focused projects in a range of schools in a geographical area
- Improves outcomes by developing and sharing good practice
- Disseminates professional development across schools' workforces
- Opportunities to make friends with service children from other schools and share experiences
- Oxfordshire, Lincolnshire and currently, Portsmouth



How to apply

- Use resources such as Thriving Lives Toolkit to identify /confirm the needs of your service children.
- What needs cannot be met by current funding but are vital to do in order to support Service children?
- Talk to other local schools and see what you can learn from each other and how you can support each other. If they have similar needs you may wish to consider a joint application.
- Submit an enquiry via our website and we will call you to discuss your needs and grant requirements
- Applications due by 12 May for June decision and September start
- Please note that we do not fund capital projects.





ARMED FORCES EDUCATION TRUST

Email - admin@armedforceseducation.org
Website - <https://armedforceseducation.org/>

Thank you

Thank you for attending our online webinar. We appreciate your participation and hope you found it valuable.

To help us improve future sessions, please take a moment to complete the [evaluation form](#).

Your feedback is greatly appreciated.



Useful Links

- [Garrison ASSIST Project](#) - A series of five short animations to help staff, and other professionals, gain a greater awareness of the difficulties that some Armed Forces families with children with SEND face.
- [Festival of Friends](#) - The Festival of Friends project, funded by the Armed Forces Education Trust and other local organisations, is an inspiring initiative focused on supporting Service children.
- [Never Such Innocence](#) - Never Such Innocence provides tools for children and young people to reflect on the realities of war and conflict. They are nurturing the next generation of thinkers, leaders and peacebuilders through the arts; inspiring cultural exchange and dialogue.
- [Seekers Create](#) - Seekers Create is a dynamic social enterprise, driven by a passionate team of creatives dedicated to fostering meaningful connections within communities.
- [Month of the Military Child](#) - Every April, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) celebrates the 'Month of the Military Child' - a time to highlight Service children and remind people of the positive impact they make in their schools and communities.
- [Forces Employment Charity](#) - The Forces Employment Charity supports young people aged 16-24 who have at least one serving or veteran parent or legal guardian in the British Armed Forces, including reservists.