

Service Children's Champions Newsletter

March 2026



Welcome to our monthly newsletter!

In these newsletters we will share information about upcoming events, local news and support available for Service children and their families.

Stronger Schools Officers

As Stronger Schools Officers, we are here to support schools with providing the very best support for Service children. We can help schools across the borough with providing targeted academic, attendance, SEND and wellbeing support for Service children, acting as a single point of contact within the local authority to help navigate and coordinate the support available.

A core focus of our work is to advocate for Service children and ensure consistent support across the borough. We will be strengthening the community network surrounding Service children by offering opportunities for schools to connect with each other and partner agencies and attend CPD, helping to share best practice across the borough.

In addition, we will support schools with sourcing resources and exploring funding opportunities to further enhance the provision available to Service pupils.

Our roles have been made possible thanks to funding from The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust.





Online Introductory meeting

Monday 9th March 2026

3:45pm - 5pm



Come along to our first networking event!

Meet the Stronger Schools Officers, hear about our roles, what support we can offer schools and our vision for supporting Service children across Hillingdon.

We will have a guest speaker, Victoria Fisher, from the SCiP Alliance.

Sign up for the meeting here

[Service Children's Champion welcome meeting - fill in form](#)



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April Month of the Military Child



Each **April** is 'The Month of the Military Child'. It is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the strength and resilience of Service children. Service children can face challenges with parents in The Armed Forces. Yet these children are an amazing asset to families, schools and the local community. The Month of the Military Child helps us remember this and celebrate their achievements.

How could you celebrate?

1. **Purple Up Day** this year is **Friday 24th April**. It is an easy way to celebrate by simply encouraging everyone to wear something purple (the colour of Month of the Military Child) to school to show some support for military-connected pupils.
2. Hold an assembly to highlight the positive stories of service life and the many things Service children have experienced. You could include Service children who would like to share their stories.
3. Enter the Month of the Military Child art and poetry competition. The charity Never Such Innocence is running a brilliant competition this year throughout April with the theme 'Winds of Change'. There is also a special bonus category for the best display by a school/group. They have many FREE resources on their website to use during the month and for entering the competition.

<https://www.neversuchinnocence.com/month-of-the-military-child>



Purple up!

4. "Share Your Story" project. Get children to think about their life experience and how they might share this with the rest of the class. Children could create artwork or write about their experiences.
5. Highlight April as 'Month of the Military Child' on your school's website.
6. Consider hosting a 'person in uniform day'. Invite a serving mother or father to come into school to talk about their role in the services either in class or during an assembly.
7. Brainstorm ideas with your children to create a permanent reminder in the school of your support for Service children.
8. Create a map or time zone wall to identify different locations around the world, with a focus on where Service children have lived before, it's a great conversation starter.

These are just a few of the many ways you could celebrate throughout April. We would be delighted to hear about the events planned in your schools and to see any photos or videos you choose to share with us.

Where possible, we would also welcome the opportunity to attend activities and support events that raise the profile of Service children within the community and celebrate their achievements.



How will you celebrate?

RAF NORTHOLT

Children and Young People's Board



Learn more about the support available to Service children in Hillingdon and connect with other schools and the local community by joining the Children and Young People's Board.

Come along to the next CYPB meeting at The Link in Northolt on **Tuesday 5th May at 1:30pm.**

These meetings are attended by representatives from The Hive, Family Lives, SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) RAF Northolt, Airplay Youth Workers, South Ruislip Children's Centre, Carers Trust and several schools in Hillingdon.

It would be great for more schools to attend and help shape support for Service pupils and their families in the borough.
If you are interested in attending, please email Hannah and Bernard.

Hannah Dent: hdent@hillington.gov.uk

Bernard Boyle: bboyle@hillington.gov.uk



Contact us



You're welcome to contact us with any questions or concerns relating to Service children, whether you're seeking support for an individual pupil or looking to strengthen provision for your wider cohort. We can help you access appropriate resources, explore funding opportunities, and connect with other schools to share best practice. You may also wish to reach out for CPD or guidance on developing the support you offer, whatever your needs, we're here to help.

Stronger Schools Officers for Service Children

Hannah Dent: hdent@hillington.gov.uk

Bernard Boyle: bboyle@hillington.gov.uk



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