

Service Children's Champions Newsletter

July 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.

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**THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST**



Service Children's Champions Network Meeting

Wednesday 15th July
3:30pm - 5pm
at
Vyners Secondary School

An opportunity for those who coordinate or support service pupils, as well as anyone wanting to learn more, to connect, share ideas and explore effective approaches together.

There will also be representatives from The Hive, Northolt, Coram Family lives and the Forces Employment Charity attending to share information about support available for Armed Forces families in Hillingdon.



Register through this link:
[Summer Term Service Children's
Champions network meeting - Fill in
form](#)

Join the Festival of Friends Project 2026/27

You are invited to be part of the Hillingdon, Berkshire and Surrey Festival of Friends collaborative project during the next academic year.

This exciting project is free to join and offers a fantastic opportunity for schools to strengthen their support for children from Armed Forces families while contributing to wider school improvement.

We are delighted to be taking part alongside schools from across Berkshire and Surrey, working in partnership with Brunel University.

Open to all schools with service pupils, including those with only a small number on roll, the project will provide access to professional learning and peer collaboration. Throughout the project there will be opportunities to network across the region and a chance for service children to have their voices heard at a pupil voice event. One of the highlights of the project will be a special Festival of Friends celebration event in Summer 2027, bringing together participating schools and service children from across the region.

Please read the separately attached letter for more information about how to sign up for the project.

There will also be a choice of 2 short information webinars on Tuesday 14th July (meeting links in the separate letter) to share some of the outcomes of previous projects and to answer questions - please join if you would like to find out more but you can sign up for the project without attending these, if preferred.





Listening Tour

The Impact Centre Listening Tour is an **opportunity to share your perspectives on what works for Service children** as part of a national conversation. The SCiP Alliance Impact Centre wants to hear from those working with Service children about effective support across home, education, community, and wellbeing settings, particularly how evidence is accessed, used, and shared. These insights will shape future training, resources, and guidance,

Register your Interest

The closest event to us in Hillingdon is being held in Ruislip in October (exact date TBC). It will be a 1-2 hour session to engage in a focus group activity to share your views on key topics related to working with Service children.

Free Event - Details about specific location will be provided upon booking (some venues details are not public), register your interest in a location here:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/1UqyhEfx72>

If you cannot make the in person or online discussion events, you can also submit your thoughts in line with the listening tour structure here:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/903HRrCff7>

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

19/05/2026	YEOVIL	11/06/2026	NORWICH	24/07/2026	ONLINE
20/05/2026	LYMPSTONE	12/06/2026	KING'S LYNN	08/07/2026	WOLVERHAMPTON
21/05/2026	PLYMOUTH	15/06/2026	COTTESMORE	12/08/2026	ONLINE
22/05/2026	HELSTON	16/06/2026	LINCOLN	23/09/2026	PORTSMOUTH
27/05/2026	EDINBURGH	17/06/2026	OXFORD	01/10/2026	ONLINE
28/05/2026	LEUCHARS	29/06/2026	INNSWORTH	OCT (TBC)	HIGH WYCOMBE
29/05/2026	LOSSIEMOUTH	30/06/2026	PRESTON	OCT (TBC)	SALISBURY
01/06/2026	INVERNESS	01/07/2026	YORK	OCT (TBC)	ALDERSHOT
02/06/2026	HELENSBURGH	02/07/2026	CATTERICK	OCT (TBC)	LONDON
05/06/2026	CARDIFF	06/07/2026	CHESTER	OCT (TBC)	RUISLIP
10/06/2026	COLCHESTER	07/07/2026	ANGLESEY	OCT (TBC)	GOSPORT

FIND OUT MORE & BOOK AT
scipalliance.org/events



CAN'T MAKE IT?

Other ways to tell us
what you think here



Service Pupil Support Programme Funding

The Service Pupil Support Programme is **open for applications until 30th September 2026.**

<https://covenantfund.org.uk/programme/the-service-pupil-support-programme/>

The MOD has partnered with the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust to administer the AF3 Fund. Under this programme, the Trust will award grants for projects which support service children along their educational pathway.

Grants of £5,000 to £150,000 for projects which address the needs of children aged 4-18 in full-time statutory education who are from currently serving armed forces families.

Your project must meet one of the following 4 themes:

- Closing the academic gap
- Support for service pupils with SEN/D, Additional support needs, Additional learning needs
- Mobility/deployment and separation
- Low numbers of service pupils

On the website you will find more information and programme guidance. You can also contact us with any questions.

Our Health, Our Community, Our Voice - Research Project

The next phase of an exciting UK-wide research project, led by Dr Paul Watson, aims to reach as many military-connected children and young people aged 8-18 as possible.

The attached poster contains links to age-appropriate surveys, each of which takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete.

We would be grateful if you could share this opportunity with the service children and their families in your school and encourage them to take part.

Every response contributes to building a stronger evidence base, helping to inform positive change and improve outcomes for military-connected children and young people across the UK.



[RAF SDH Recruitment Poster](#)

Resource Toolkit for Schools

We are excited to share with you our resource toolkit for schools.

In the toolkit we have collated a large variety of organisations, charities, government information, wellbeing support and moving and transition resources that can be used to support Service children.

For access, please see the separate link on LBH Education Weekly, which will also be sent via email.

If you have any difficulties accessing any of the attached links or resources do let us know.



Wellbeing Support



Little Troopers Therapy Programme
<https://www.littletroopers.net/little-troopers-therapy-programme/>

Designed uniquely for military life, the programme offers tailored, face-to-face therapy for children who are struggling with challenges directly connected to having a serving parent. It focuses on the distinct pressures military children face, not general mental health concerns unrelated to service. Referrals can be made for individual or group support and there are also therapy videos available.



Kooth
www.kooth.com

Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online mental-health and wellbeing platform for children and young people aged 10-25. It provides access to qualified counsellors through text-based chat, with support available 12pm-10pm on weekdays and 6pm-10pm on weekends. A self-help tool is available 24/7.



Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund
RAF Benevolent Fund Youth Counselling Service
<https://www.rafbf.org/get-support/emotional-wellbeing/children-and-young-people-counselling>

A specialist counselling service, provided through Relate, is available for children and young people aged 11 to 18 and, on a case by case basis, for those aged 5 to 10. The service offers support on a wide range of wellbeing and mental health issues. The sessions normally take place remotely. They will fund an initial assessment and up to 6 counselling sessions for eligible Children and Young People. To find out more, please call their helpline on **0300 102 1919** or submit a request form on the website.

Hillingdon Thrive  **thrive together**
Parent/Carer Support and Information - Thrive Hillingdon

The website has been designed to support children, young people, families, and professionals by bringing together clear information, self-help tools, signposting, and a wide range of emotional well-being resources in one accessible place. Its aim is to make it easier for people to understand what support is available and how to access it.





Service Children in State Schools (SCISS)
<https://www.sciss.org.uk>

Service Children in State Schools (SCISS) is a network of state-maintained schools in England that have any number of Service children on roll.

SCISS is led by a National Executive Advisory Committee (NEAC) comprising of headteachers, local authority officers, the Armed Forces Families Federations, Service Children Progression Alliance (SCIP), DfE and the MOD. They have produced informative factsheets and resources aimed to help school leaders including those who might be new to supporting Service children.



Little Troopers
<https://www.littletroopers.net>

Little Troopers is a charity supporting all children with one or both parents serving in the British Armed Forces.

Little Troopers ensures British Armed Forces children and their families have access to child-focused support, providing fundamental resources and initiatives for families to use at home. The charity also has a dedicated Little Troopers At School programme which is packed with practical resources to help teachers support children and young people in both primary and secondary schools including Little Troopers Club packs, online workshops, lesson plans, SQUAD Podcast for military teenagers and more. The majority of the Little Troopers resources are available for free.



Never Such Innocence
<https://www.neversuchinnocence.com>

A charity that aims to give children and young people across the world a voice on conflict. The charity offers opportunities to reflect on conflict throughout history and today through poetry, art, speech and song. It provides free, online resources, runs an annual competition and can provide workshops in schools with skilled practitioners.



Reading Force
<https://www.readingforce.org.uk>

The charity's shared reading initiative encourages families to read, talk, and scrapbook about a book, improving communication and enriching relationships with books and each other, one page at a time. Reading Force complements your pastoral support perfectly. All you need to do is allocate one person to become a Reading Force Ambassador and register with the charity to order your free materials. Armed Forces families can also access support directly from Reading Force.



Other transition resources

On the next few pages are different transition and moving on resources, including deployment notes and wellbeing booklets. These resources were originally created by the Service Children's Champion in North Yorkshire, who Hillingdon works collaboratively with.

[Transition Checklists.pdf](#)




[Well-being Diary.pdf](#)



[On the Move Booklet.pdf](#)



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.

We are now extending our support directly to parents and families and have set up a separate email address for them to contact us directly regarding their child's education. We would be grateful if you could share this with your Armed Forces families.

Contact for parents and families:

Servicechildren@Hillingdon.gov.uk

Contact for schools:

Hannah Dent: hdent@hillington.gov.uk
Bernard Boyle: bboyle@hillington.gov.uk

