



A · D · E · S
Association of Directors of Education in Scotland

ADES NATIONAL TRANSITIONS OFFICER

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
OF ARMED FORCES FAMILIES IN OUR SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER (APRIL 2022)



Dear Colleagues,

I hope this finds you well.

Schools, early years setting, and local authorities continue to focus on Covid-Recovery and education recovery strategy, yet the impact of the virus on learners, teachers,

staff, families, and communities continues to take its toll. Schools and settings, head teachers, managers and staff must be applauded for their unstinting efforts to provide safe, nurturing, stimulating, learning environments that offer opportunities for children and young people to thrive. The incidents of contracting the virus have, in many areas, been higher in the last few months; this has directly impacted on attendance at schools. With significant numbers having been inoculated, it is hoped that the effect on individuals will be less severe. The Scottish Government will continue to ensure that our approach to restrictions in society and in education settings is necessary and proportionate, and informed by experience, evidence, and data.

The Easter/Spring holidays are welcomed by tired staff, students, and families. I hope you have all have had, at least a brief, enjoyable, health, and happy break.

Throughout this year, armed forces families have continued to face changes and challenges related to mobility, transition, isolation, deployment, and separation. The importance of developing good relationships with teachers, educators, staff, and peers, necessary to fully engage in a positive learning journey, remain key elements that schools and settings promote. Focus on good mental and physical health, wellbeing, and socialisation continue to be priorities, these complement the importance of academic progress.

Armed Forces children can face challenges with parents in the military. Yet these children are also an amazing asset to families, settings and schools, and the local community. **The Month of the Military Child (April 2022)** helps us remember this and encourages us to celebrate their achievements. Check the suggestions and resources available online <https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/celebrate-month-of-the-military-child-this-april>

Show your support by [downloading the logo](#) to use on social media throughout the month.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has horrified the world and dominated headlines, with many people worldwide anxious about the conflict. Children and young people are no exception – with uncertainty even greater among those from Armed Forces families concerned that a loved one will be called to serve. Britain's Armed Forces are already on high alert, with some mobilised to areas across Europe.

Conflict around the world has a huge impact on armed forces families. But how do you talk to frightened and curious children and young people of armed forces families (or civilian) about such events?

Several useful guides are available for parents and educators on our Forces Children's Education [dedicated Resources page](#) to help with meaningful conversations. These resources include advice from the Save the Children charity, with tips from a psychologist and child counsellor; recommended by MOD Educational Psychologists.

Education Scotland has created a similar website platform, Teaching about conflict and war: Support for educators <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning->

[resources/teaching-about-conflict-and-war-support-for-educators/](#) This resource is linked to [ADES Forces Children's Education](#), and provides webinars, wakelets, and a broad range of related material. Local Authority Educational Psychologists too have prepared resources that have been made available to their schools, ELC settings, and staff, available on intranet platforms.

The following items are those that I want to bring to your attention in this update.

1. **Month of the Military Child - April 2022**
Never Such Innocence
Some ideas for schools and ELC settings to consider
2. Ideas for engagement – **Little Troopers**
POSTER: Celebrating the benefits of being an Armed Forces Child
3. **ADES Forces Children's Education website** – social media
Shortlisted FINALIST for the Scottish Veterans 2022 Award - Health & Wellbeing
4. **General Teaching Council Scotland (GTCS)** – January 2022
Supporting our armed forces families
5. **AFF 'Army & You'** magazine – March 2022 (page 12)
ADES Forces Children's Education (FCE): Teacher's Toolkit
6. **The Royal Navy in Scotland - Update**
7. **The Royal Navy STEM in Scotland**
8. **Army Engagement Team – SCOTLAND**
9. **Reading Force**
10. **MOD Education Support Fund (ESF) 2022 and 2023**
11. **Scottish Armed Forces Education Support Group (SAFESG) - Scottish Government**
12. **Army Welfare Services** – strategic plan 2021-2023
13. **Naval Families Federation**
A new poster – Getting to Know the Scottish Education System
14. **ADES Resources – Forces Children's Education**
15. **Royal British Legion: FUNDING**
16. **Armed Forces Covenant Fund – Forces for Change**
17. **Childminding in Scotland**
18. **Welcome to Scotland** – A guide for Service Personnel and their families moving to Scotland (Scottish Government publication)
19. **Resources: Reports, Newsletters / Websites**

Best wishes,
Carolyn

This is the information that is available currently (26/04/2022).
Please get in contact if you have any comments or queries.

Carolyn MacLeod MBE

National Transitions Officer

for Children and Young People of Armed Forces families in Scottish Schools, ADES

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1. Month of the Military Child - April 2022

April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, which highlights the important role Forces children play in the military community. It is a time to applaud Armed Forces families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome. Education settings are encouraged to promote and carry out activities during this month to increase understanding, raise awareness, and to celebrate the unique experiences of this distinct group of children and young people; to become a more Armed Forces-friendly environment.



Hashtags to use **#MotMC** or **#monthofthemilitarychild**

Why purple?

Purple was chosen because it symbolizes all branches of the military, a combination of Army Green, Air Force Blue, Coast Guard Blue, Marine Red, and Navy Blue.

Never Such Innocence

The MOD and Never Such Innocence invite armed forces children and young people aged 5 – 18 to participate in Month of the Military Child by creating poems, songs, speeches, or artwork inspired by the dandelion, reflecting on service life.

The deadline to enter is 29th April 2022 and winners will be announced on 6th May 2022.

Winning pieces will be displayed at MOD Main Building in London and 2 schools will also be selected to win a prize pack for their classroom.

All work can be sent to www.neversuchinnocence.com/month-of-the-military-child
For any questions please email enquiries@neversuchinnocence.com

Some ideas for schools and ELC settings to consider during the Month of the Military Child

- Show your support by [downloading the logo](#) to use on social media throughout the month; local authority, school and setting sites.
- Identify a day in April to highlight Armed Forces children in your school. Ask them to wear something purple (the colour of #MotMC). Use this time to share good news stories about your school with families and the local media.
- Host a breakfast event. Include all parents associated with the armed forces. Remember to invite staff who were Forces children themselves!
- Consider hosting a 'person in uniform day'. Invite a serving mother or father either into a class or during an assembly to talk with the pupils.
- 'Share Your Story' Project: encourage children to think about their life experience and how they might share this with the rest of the class. Children can create artwork or a journal about their experiences.
- Create and record a role-played news programme explaining the value of the Armed Forces.
- Organise a 'Forces Fitness Fun Day'. Link with your local unit / base for some ideas, and perhaps some support.
- Send thank you cards to a local Armed Forces base/station/unit, and Armed Forces charity, a nursing home, or veteran's community group.
- Ask your local Armed Forces base/unit/station to deliver an activity (STEM or team building) with pupils.
- Read some books about experiences of Armed Forces children and families.
- Invite your Local Authority Armed Forces Champion to attend activities during the Month of the Military Child.
- Celebrate a family member who has previously served or who is currently serving in the Armed Forces by asking children to share pictures and medals.



Month of the Military Child
April 2022

This year, the MOD and Never Such Innocence invite service children to participate in Month of the Military Child by creating **poems, songs, speeches or artwork** inspired by the dandelion, reflecting on service life!

Open to young people aged 5-18

The deadline to enter is **29 April 2022** and winners will be announced 6 May 2022.

Winning pieces will be displayed at MOD Main Building in London, additionally, two schools will also be selected and win a prize pack for their classrooms!

Enter early and you may see the work of your students on the MOD/NSI social media pages throughout April!

All work can be sent in here:
www.neversuchinnocence.com/month-of-the-military-child

For any questions, please email enquiries@neversuchinnocence.com or call 0207 836 2603.



Thank you for ideas from


MOD-AFFS
people-affs-mailbox@mod.gov.uk and

SSCE Cymru (Wales)
<https://www.sscecymru.co.uk/events/monthofthemilitarychild/default.htm>

2. Ideas for Engagement - Month of the Military Child

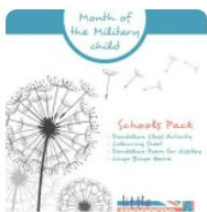


Little Troopers who have lots of dandelion themed activities to keep little troopers busy e.g., mindfulness colouring in sheets, school packs, and all for free -




Month of the Military Child – Mindfulness Colouring

[VIEW](#)



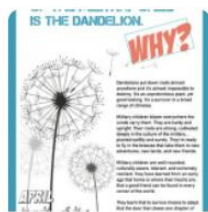
Month of the Military Child – Schools Pack

[VIEW](#)



Month of the Military Child – Dandelion & Lemon Biscuits

[VIEW](#)



Month of the Military Child – Dandelion Poem

[VIEW](#)

<https://www.littletroopers.net/month-of-the-military-child>

ADES Forces Children's Education – POSTER: Celebrating the benefits of being an Armed Forces Child

What a great way to welcome armed forces families and their children to your school or setting. This poster recognises the added value that armed forces children provide to your setting and community – let them know they and their life experiences are appreciated.



<https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/free-poster-for-af-schools>

3. ADES Forces Children's Education website – social media



Exciting News

FORCES 
CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION



Forces Children's Education

Shortlisted **FINALIST**

for the **Scottish Veterans**
2022 Award

Health & Wellbeing



The Scottish Veterans Awards – sponsored by Joint Force Alba and in association with the ABF Soldiers' Charity – recognise veterans in areas such as business, fitness and sport, reservists' achievements, and companies that support the Armed Forces community.

Forces Children's Education (FCE) – run by National Transitions Officer Carolyn MacLeod, on behalf of the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES) – is a finalist in the 'Health and Wellbeing' category for the team's work to support Armed Forces families and educators.

"I feel very honoured to receive this recognition that must be shared with all the colleagues and partnership groups that have helped to make the Forces Children's Education website such a valuable and vital resource for Veterans, Reserve and Regular personnel and their families."

[Forces Children's Education](#)

[Forces Children's Education | LinkedIn](#)

[Forces Children's Education \(@ForcesChildren\) / Twitter](#)

[Forces Children's Education | Facebook](#)

FORCES 
CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION

4. General Teaching Council Scotland (GTCS) – January 2022 Supporting our armed forces families

Mobile learners need their schools to support them through some challenging experiences

The importance of supporting an Armed Forces child throughout their educational journey has been highlighted by the General Teaching Council for Scotland.

The article promotes a wider awareness and understanding across Scotland's Education sector of support for Children and Young People from Armed Forces families. ADES Forces Children's Education, the Highland Council - Military Liaison Group MLG (Education) and educators in Moray Council feature in the article (page 46).

<https://www.gtcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/GTCS-Teaching-Scotland-Issue-91-2022.pdf>

GROWING ARMED FORCES LEARNERS

Supporting our armed forces families

Mobile learners need their schools to support them through some challenging experiences

Children from armed forces families have to deal with the emotional impacts of frequent moves and moving schools, which can have a negative effect on their educational experiences.

Research from the University of Stirling on 'Exploring the experiences of children and young people from armed forces families' found that children usually have little opportunity to reflect on their experiences of being part of an armed forces family at school, while the level and nature of support available to them within their schools varies dramatically across Scotland.

There are thought to be approximately 10,000 children from armed forces families in Scottish schools, with high concentrations in parts of the country where there are air bases, army and navy bases, including Edinburgh, Midlothian, Angles and Bone, Highland and Moray.

Lisa Kennedy, Positive Relationships Co-ordinator at the Highland Council, said: "A key priority for us is to improve the identification of armed forces families which, with a total of 102 in Highland, we know is still largely under reported."

"If we know a pupil is from an armed forces family, we can ensure educators and practitioners have an awareness and understanding of their specific needs so they can get the right support to the pupil at the right time. Some key areas of importance are the impacts of deployment and separation. High levels of mobility, particularly for the army, can result in our children and young people experiencing new education systems and being put in different year groups, and sometimes repeating work already covered. This can impact on a pupil's sense of belonging, wellbeing, achievement and attainment."

Kathryn Murray, school in Moray, has developed dedicated support resources for transition, as well as a weekly club for children from home or are experiencing deployment. Around 60 per cent of children in the school are from armed forces families, some returning to Scotland from postings abroad and others transferring from UK schools.

Wide-ranging considerations

With such a significant number, schools need to consider ways to support families who feel isolated and away from their support networks as well as those who feel there is little point in short-term engagement with their new community.

Headteacher Rachel Widdell said: "There are wide-ranging issues for us to consider, including mental and emotional resilience, and the general wellbeing of the children, as well as concerns that parents have about the impact of moving schools on attainment and achievement and their understanding of Scotland's curriculum for excellence. There are children who are here for their entire primary journey, but they are affected by friendships lost due to their family being posted. Sometimes a parent is deployed for months with very little notice and school is the only constant that the child has in their life."

Curriculum for Excellence. There are children who are here for their entire primary journey, but they are affected by friendships lost due to their family being posted. Sometimes a parent is deployed for months with very little notice and school is the only constant that the child has in their life."

"Of course, we had adopted a whole-school health and wellbeing approach, which has been a valuable during the pandemic. We bring this back into focus again at the end of the week."

ADES Forces Children's Education National Transitions Officer Carolyn MacLeod agreed that many families have faced the challenge of making in-person connections throughout the pandemic. However, she added: "Just as the wider population, while some of our learners have struggled, others have thrived with blended learning. They are not a homogeneous group. There are force children in schools without every local authority, but it can be a lot more challenging for a school to effectively engage with them if there are fewer people, rather than it being the other way round."

Carolyn has created a Toolkit




For Teachers to help staff answer the questions they will have when a learner from a forces family joins their school, key areas covered include the importance of identifying armed forces pupils, their challenges, inclusion, support available, and celebrating their successes.

The explained: "This resource is both an opportunity to reinforce the knowledge that schools have but also for those who don't have an understanding at all. It is very much something people can dip into to help with some of the language and the questions that families often ask. Through a partnership approach, we need to help schools to look at where each child is in their learning journey."

More divergent approaches

University of Strathclyde research exploring barriers to the experiences and educational outcomes of armed forces children found that it is important to understand the cultural differences, or re-stating education in one of the divergent nations during their learning journey.

"Such an experience is not the sole preserve of children of armed forces families, in many other settings, while training should focus on preparing teachers to support armed forces children through challenges such as parental deployment and school transitions. Meanwhile, recently published research from the Education Policy Institute provides a comparison of education across the developed nations, which concludes that each is becoming more divergent in its structure, systems and approaches, and that this pattern will continue."

Carolyn said: "Such a scenario is important and will have a significant impact on children and young people who are mobile and engage in education in different jurisdictions, often returning to or re-stating education in one of the divergent nations during their learning journey."

"Such an experience is not the sole preserve of children of armed forces families, in many other groups and individual families are mobile, or in transition. I refer to these mobile families as those 'in the fringe' as education systems best support those children and families who are static in a local community. There are many families and children who experience frequent mobility and changes in education settings, an education system that is child needs led should provide options and support that will enable families who are mobile to benefit from the best education experience that is available, and most appropriate for each child."

"We want education to provide continuity and long-term learning, which will always be difficult in this context. But the pandemic has shown that there is potential for more adaptability and flexibility in our curriculum, helping children of armed forces families will help all children."

RESOURCES

- Force Children's Education Toolkit for Teachers <https://www.gtcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/GTCS-Teaching-Scotland-Issue-91-2022.pdf>
- A comparison of school inclusion and policies across the UK <https://www.gtcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/GTCS-Teaching-Scotland-Issue-91-2022.pdf>
- Exploring the experiences of children and young people from armed forces families <https://www.gtcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/GTCS-Teaching-Scotland-Issue-91-2022.pdf>
- Education Scotland research <https://www.gtcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/GTCS-Teaching-Scotland-Issue-91-2022.pdf>
- The Educational Challenges of Armed Forces Children <https://www.gtcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/GTCS-Teaching-Scotland-Issue-91-2022.pdf>

Toolkit for teachers

5. Army Families Federation 'Army & You' magazine – March 2022 (page 12)

ADES Forces Children's Education (FCE): Teacher's Toolkit



DOWNLOAD

2022 CELEBRATING FORCES FAMILIES

FORCES LIFE ON FILM

TEACHING FORCES FAMILIES

TEACHERS TOOLKIT

The toolkit is designed to provide teachers with a range of resources to support them in teaching about the experiences of children and young people from armed forces families. It includes a range of activities, games, and worksheets that can be used in the classroom or at home.

The toolkit is designed to be used by teachers of all levels and is suitable for use in primary and secondary schools. It is also suitable for use by parents and carers at home.

The toolkit is designed to be used by teachers of all levels and is suitable for use in primary and secondary schools. It is also suitable for use by parents and carers at home.

The 'Toolkit for Teachers' packed with guidance and tips for educators who work with children and young people from Armed Forces families.

The document has been developed to help staff answer the questions they will have when a pupil from an Armed Forces family joins their school.

Key areas covered include the importance of identifying Armed Forces pupils, their challenges, inclusion, support available, and celebrating their successes.

The toolkit has been created by National Transitions Officer Carolyn MacLeod, who runs the FCE website and who works on behalf of the Association of Directors of Education (ADES) to support and advise Armed Forces families.



Toolkit for teachers



Carolyn said: *"The Toolkit was developed in collaboration with teachers who have a wealth of experience and knowledge, and in response to specific questions for more information. I think all staff will appreciate this resource."*

To learn more, visit the [Forces Children's Education](https://www.forceschildrenseducation.org/) website.

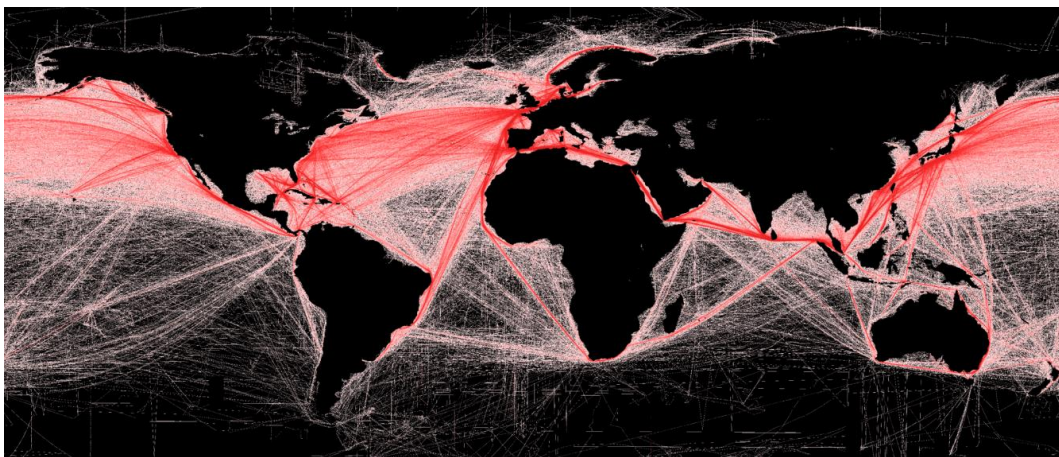
6. The Royal Navy in Scotland

Royal Navy Update

As the world continues its journey of recovery from the Coronavirus Pandemic, as well as now facing the largest geo-political challenge since the Second World War, the Royal Navy has continued to deliver our 24-hour, 365 day a year contribution to the security of the UK, maintaining its global footprint, supporting NATO and various National taskings including Maritime Security, Counter Narcotics and Humanitarian Support Operations. The map below provides a simple representation that the UK is an island nation but is also intrinsically connected to the global economy.

Accounting for 95 percent of its trade volume, the UK sea freight industry is vital for the country's economy. The blockage of the Suez Canal in March 21 by the MV Ever Given demonstrated the fragility of the global supply chains with the "just enough, just in time" approach to logistics. Although this was a navigational incident this highlights the impact a hostile nation or terrorist operation could have, causing similar disruptions to the flow of trade. This is one of the main reasons behind the RN's continued presence in areas such as the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Aden.

Global Shipping Lanes (Density of Shipping)



From a more local Scottish perspective HMNB CLYDE continues to support the National Strategic Deterrent, as well as protection of UK Waters and Maritime Security operations. The Naval Base continues to host the twice yearly multi-national Joint Warrior Exercise that see's many of our NATO Allies come together to train not only in the seas around Scotland but also on the land and in the air across the UK. This permits us to operate seamlessly with our partners within the NATO alliance, as is being demonstrated on a daily basis, due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine with its global repercussions.

Moving from the grand strategic through the regional we come down to the most important piece of the equation - Our People and their families.

HMNB CLYDE has continued to operate enhanced COVID-19 safety measures to ensure that all Ship's companies are protected as best as possible from the virus in order to maintain operations. This combined with the vaccination programme has now mitigated most of the increased family separation experienced during the earlier phase of the pandemic. The reopening of schools has been a welcome return to more stable routines that support Armed Forces families in managing these extended periods of separation. An important factor because families with deployed personnel really struggled through the home-schooling period, in what continues to be extended periods of separation for AF families; particularly for those in the RN community where Harmony guidelines see greater periods of separation (Harmony guidelines are measured over a 36-month period and the limits are 660 days away for the Royal Navy/Royal Marines; 498 days for the Army; and 468 days away for the RAF). However, the situation in Ukraine has meant that a large number of UK military personnel have been deployed at short notice for an unknown period of time and this will undoubtedly have an impact on family stability.

Lt Cdr G C Atkinson RN, Regional Learning & Development Officer (North)

7. Royal Navy STEM in Scotland

The Royal Navy have resourced a dedicated STEM outreach team for Scotland since April 2019 headed up by Commander Dave Pinder. The team is based at HM Naval Base Clyde and can offer a range of hands-on activities designed to enthuse young people into engaging more with STEM based learning.

The activities are best suited to late primary or early secondary (P5 to S3) pupils with the emphasis on having a positive and fun experience.

Covid-19 restrictions forced the team to work remotely for most of 2020/21 and they filled time by delivering a virtual tour of a modern submarine, emphasising the STEM required to keep it at sea for long periods of time and follows a typical day in the life of a submariner. This could be delivered using Zoom or Teams and was also included in the Glasgow Science Centres *Curious About* festival in May 2021. Once

restrictions were relaxed on April 26th, the team resumed school visits reaching out to the primary schools that had missed out due to Covid. The team delivered 26 engagements during the summer 2021 term and reached over 1300 young people in the process.

The team is now looking forward to 2022 and returning to a full programme of visits to schools to support STEM delivery within the curriculum.

Current activities being deployed by the team are:

- **Sphero Orbs** – Robotic orbs that are coded using iPad and block style code. This resource can be used to explore speed/distance and angles/headings as well as covering some simple coding functions. The iPad and Orbs would be sanitised after each group.
- **FESTO Pneumatics** – A low pressure pneumatic circuit system that allows hands on build and test. Teaches simple pneumatics/hydraulics and introduces the student to following a basic circuit drawing. Each component can be wiped down after each session.
- **SNAP Electrical circuits** – A battery operated circuit build. The students can construct a simple circuit with a power source, switch and fan then explore the effects of adding more power (extra batteries) or connecting in parallel/series etc. Each component can be sanitised after each session.
- **Virtual Submarine Tour** – A presenter led journey through a modern submarine using 3D, Xbox style software. The presenter will show the students where we sleep, eat and work as well as using questioning techniques to explore how we make fresh water, maintain our atmosphere and exploit our environment. Aspects will give real world examples of the pneumatic/electric circuit stances to tie it all together.

To find out more or invite the team to your school please contact:

WO1 Hugh Welsh RN - hugh.welsh848@mod.gov.uk

8. Army Engagement Team - SCOTLAND

“As part of society the Army is acutely aware of the challenges we all face, including the disproportionate impact this continues to have on our young people hampering their needs to gain experience and develop the critical life skills they need as they move forward into working life. The British Army wants not just to engage with our communities, young people, and wider society but to share the skills and experiences used when developing our soldiers and officers with youth audiences in order to inspire and empower them to be the very best that they can be.

We have invested in a 6-person team of young soldiers, from a variety of different trades and home backgrounds, able to work with young learners, teachers and DYW co-ordinators. The team is based in Edinburgh and has already travelled the length

and breadth of Scotland working with many Local Authorities including Highland, Western Isles and Argyll & Bute, Moray, Dumfries & Galloway, South Ayrshire, Borders, South Lanarkshire, Fife, East Lothian, Edinburgh and Glasgow City Councils to name a few.

Much of our work focusses on those hard-to-reach audiences from all strands of socio- economic backgrounds and we are proud of our collaborative work with Police Scotland, Action for Children and Active Life amongst others.

Such is the popularity of the Youth Development Team that Local Authorities are now competing for “frequent flier” status. Feedback from teaching staff always comments on how “well-organised” and “safe” the hands-on, outdoor activities are, which allow young learners to work together in different groups. Our practical activities, support transferrable skills, develop and challenge their Teamworking, Resilience, Problem solving, Leadership, Organisational, and Communication skills.



Image Courtesy of Dalkeith Rugby Club – Youth Development Team improving Leadership and Teamwork skills for Youth Rugby Players

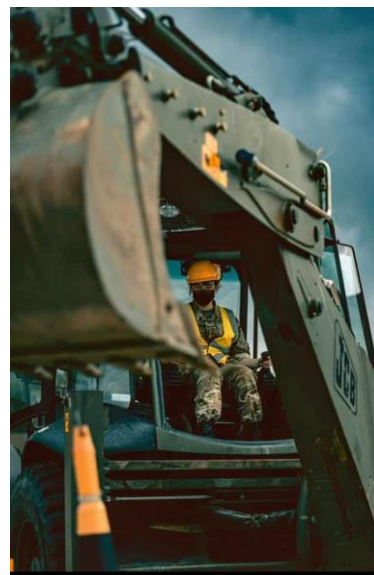
We also offer through schools and industry partners, Army Youth Challenges, run periodically throughout Scotland from Defence sites at Carnoustie, Kinloss and Edinburgh. These are themed events which build on the previous work of the Youth Development Team and the innovative approach is designed to allow young people to recognise, develop and grow within themselves. As a team they learn to communicate effectively and discover resilience by taking active part in the challenges – all conducted in a mentored and supported environment.

Our most recent endorsement from Pilrig Park School Developing Young Workforce (DYW) co-ordinator (Apr 22)

“They [Youth Development Team] should be proud of themselves to be able to engage, inspire and build skills for life for the Young People who really need and benefit from their time and skills. It also says a lot about your team.”



Exercise Engineering Challenge is one such example of how one of our Corps engage with youth. The Royal Mechanical and Electrical Engineers work with industry partners to support their apprentices, through 5 days of activities. Staff are our greatest asset, and we are always looking at ways to develop leadership experiences so young people also meet their full potential.



We have a huge selection of Inspirational Role Models from our diverse cultural and social backgrounds, frequently advertised on platforms such as Founders For Schools, Speakers for Schools and through MS Teams.

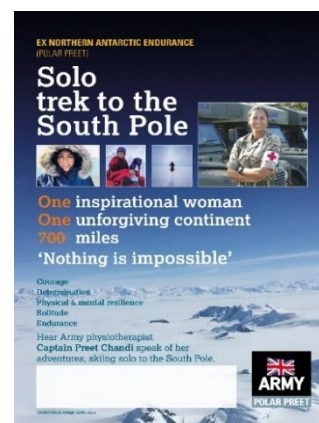
Most recently POLAR PREET, (Capt. Preet Chandi) visited Scotland, inspiring young people about her record-breaking solo crossing of the Antarctic in 2021 as the first woman of colour. As a serving Army officer and physiotherapist, she engaged face to face with over 2000 young people, alongside Key Stakeholders, including Girl Guide Scotland, seen here at our International Women's Day reception at Edinburgh Castle.



MOD Imagery



MOD Imagery



We work closely with other uniformed and non-uniformed youth groups such as The Scout Association delivering the Army sponsored Scout Mechanic Badge. Through Cadet Force Adult Volunteers and school Linked Detachments, young people are supported to help their communities whilst also working towards gaining SQA Awards.



Army Cadets at Kinloss Barracks, hosted by 39 Engineer Regiment taking part in an Army Youth Challenge –

MOD Copyright

Our STEM team work closely with schools to support creative thinking, innovation, and the promotion of STEM subjects to help with future subject and career pathway. We continue to be proud sponsors and activity providers at the acclaimed Edinburgh Science Partnership, also showcasing our creativity and performing arts with Army at the Fringe and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



Commander 51st Inf Bde – Brigadier Ben Wrench with performers Army @ The Fringe 2021 – MOD Copyright

Ultimately, we as YOUR ARMY, aim to engage, inspire, and empower the younger generations as part of our social responsibility

The Army not only draws from society, serves society, but gives back to society.

To find out more about us, please contact (51X-Engt-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk).

9. Reading Force

Sharing stories, reading together, and chatting about books is a great way for families to spend time together and have fun!



Reading Force supports all families with a military connection (serving, veterans, sick/injured, ex-Forces, and family members of serving or ex-Forces separated by divorce/separation) to do this by posting out or giving them **FREE books and special scrapbooks** for children from babies to older teens. The idea of the scrapbook is for families to fill it with their collective ideas, drawings, photographs and crafts relating to the book they are reading. Doing this creates a physical memory of an enjoyable time spent together. Sharing stories is a great way for families to stay connected and bonded, and enriches relationships with books and reading in general. According to the National Literacy Trust, 'Children who are the most engaged with literacy are three times more likely to have higher levels of mental wellbeing than children who are the least engaged'.

Families can take part whether they are at home together, or separated for any reason, for example due to training, deployment or divorce/separation, or have extended family members living in different parts of the country or world.

'I loved doing Reading Force with all my family because it brought everyone together'.

'I enjoyed being able to share a book with my family even though I wasn't at home. It really made me feel included'.



In addition to scrapbooks, Reading Force now has a **Reading Journal** for young people aged 11 and over, 'teens and tweens'. In it they can write or draw about the book(s) they are reading, but there is also space for them to express their feelings, for example about how the book and characters make them feel, or what they would say to someone they are missing. It is also peppered with inspirational quotes.



Reading Force's Scottish Ambassador, Fiona Maxwell, works collaboratively with a wide range of organisations who support Armed Forces families, making their resources freely available so they can offer them to families as part of their pastoral care. Organisations include pre-schools/nurseries, primary and secondary schools, military welfare units, local authority representatives, Service children's clubs, other charities, and veterans' organisations. For example, Fiona has just provided resources for Helensburgh and Lomond Young Carers to give to the young carers in Forces and ex-Forces families they work with.

Now that Covid restrictions have eased, Fiona is able to visit organisations in person to chat about Reading Force and how she can work with them to provide support for

their military families. In November 2021, Fiona launched the Reading Journal in Scotland at Queen Victoria School, Dunblane where it was received enthusiastically by the young people – they loved the stickers too!

For nurseries and pre-schools who request resources, Fiona can also provide **Reading Force Early Years Bags** to give out: a Reading Force tote bag with an age-appropriate book, scrapbook, booklet with hints and tips for parents reading with little ones, a (new) leaflet with book-related ideas for what to do in a scrapbook, a Storytime magazine (with fairy tales, short stories but no adverts) and a bookmark. These are also available for Primary 1 classes in schools. Early Years Bags have been winging their way to children in the Helensburgh and Arbroath areas and Fiona is keen for as many nurseries, pre-schools and schools to order them as possible!

How can families and organisations become involved?

Families:

- If they receive scrapbooks/journals from, for example, a school or welfare organisation, they can go to the registration page on the website to request a FREE book for each child. A registration form will ask them for a few details such as their address, names, ages and dates of birth of their child(ren) so they can send them age-appropriate books
- If they hear about us through a third party or via social media, they can go to the same registration page on the website to request both books and scrapbooks/journals
- The resources requested will be posted out
- All the information families give is confidential and will not be shared with third parties
- For more information and the link to the registration page click [here](#)

Pre-schools/nurseries, schools, clubs, and organisations:

- Can go to the website to register to receive a Reading Force Resources Pack which includes the number of scrapbooks/journals requested, a Parent/Carer letter explaining what Reading Force is and which can be sent out with the scrapbooks, a poster and brochure for staff working with Armed Forces children
- For more information and the link to the registration page click [here](#)
- Can contact Fiona Maxwell directly to order resources (see below)

For more information, please contact Fiona Maxwell, Reading Force Ambassador (Scotland):

fiona@readingforce.org.uk or Tel 07548 778 930

Website: [Home - Reading Force](#)

Facebook: [Reading Force - Home | Facebook](#)

Twitter: [Reading Force team \(@ReadingForce\) / Twitter](#)

10. MOD Education Support Fund (ESF) 2022

Armed Forces Families & Safeguarding (AFFS) has announced that the total amount of 2022 MOD Education Support Fund (ESF) **awarded in Scotland is £482,201.80.**

The following schools and local authorities were successful through either the formal application or 'in-year' process to receive funding:

Angus Council

Argyll & Bute Council

Colinton Primary School – Firrhill Cluster, City of Edinburgh Council

Highland Council

Kinloss Primary School – Associated Schools Groups, Moray Council

Leuchars Primary School, Fife Council

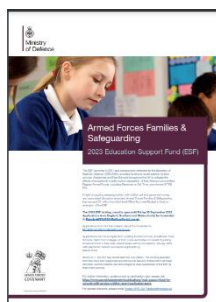
Mauricewood Primary School, Midlothian Council

Raigmore Primary School, Highland Council

MOD Education Support Fund (ESF) 2023 for schools with service children: Grant for UK maintained schools with service children of frequently moved or absent parents.

The 2023 ESF bidding round is open until **Friday 30 September 2022.** Applications from England, Scotland and Wales should be forwarded to

People-AFFS-ESF-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk



For further information, guidance and an application pack, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mod-support-fund-for-schools-with-service-children-grant-application-pack>

For general enquiries, please email People-AFFS-ESF-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

Re: In-Year bid application "Please be aware that the ESF is currently under review and that your application may have to be submitted again through a new scheme."

11. Scottish Government:

Scottish Armed Forces Education Support Group (SAFESG)

[Scottish Armed Forces Education Support Group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/topics/armed-forces/education-support-group)



Overview

The Scottish Government recognises that children from UK Armed Forces families may at certain points of their education require additional support to benefit from school education in Scotland due to the nature of their parents' and carers' employment within the Armed Forces.

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities to identify, assess and provide for the additional support needs of all children for whose education they are responsible. Additional support needs are broadly defined, including those which might impact on children from Armed Forces families, such as transitions, interrupted learning and dealing with separation and loss.

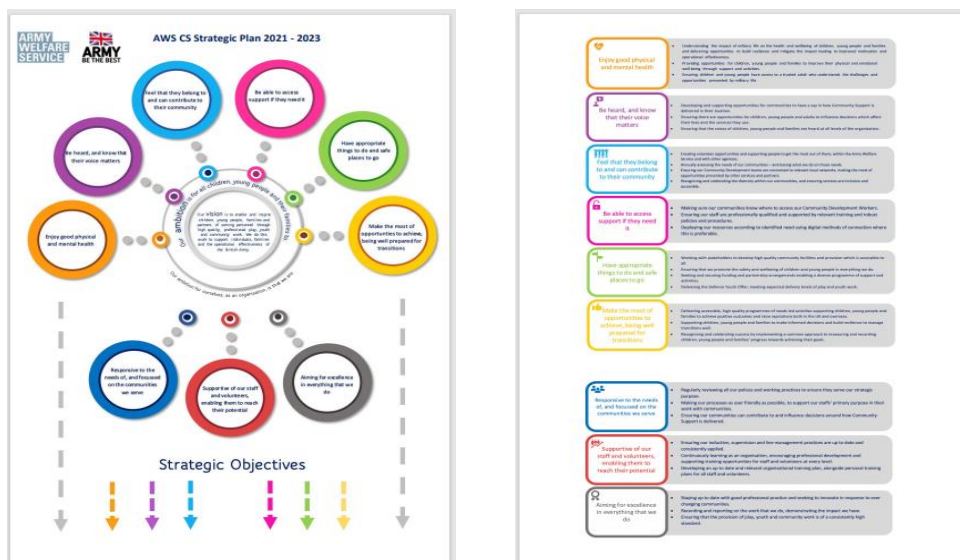
These support needs can occur at any time during a child's education and may be temporary or longer term. The nature of the support will vary based on the individual child's needs and could include pastoral support as part of the universal support offered by teachers or other professionals. Our commitment is to ensure that any barriers to learning are minimised in order that all children and young people get the support they need to reach their full potential.

The core purpose of the Scottish Armed Forces Education Support Group (SAFESG) is to work in collaboration with key stakeholders to support the education needs of children from Armed Forces families in Scotland. This work will build on the achievements outlined in [Support for the Veterans and Armed Forces Community, November 2020](#) as well as the actions identified in the [Additional Support for Learning review, October 2020](#).

12. Army Welfare Services (AWS) – strategic plan 2021-2023

AWS Community Support have stated their strategic plans and objectives (2021-2023) as . . . enabling and inspiring children, young people, families, and partners of serving personnel, through high quality, professional play, youth, and community work.

They do this work to support individual families, and operational effectiveness of the British Army.



See the posters on

www.forceschildrenseducation.org.uk

13. Naval Families Federation

A new poster – Getting to Know the Scottish Education System



Following feedback from families about their experiences of moving between England and Scotland, the Naval Families Federation (NFF) have created this poster to provide information about the Scottish Education System, including how GIRFEC is used to support all children individually with their current needs.

<https://nff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/GIRFEC-Poster-PDF-Links-1.pdf>

This poster is now online in the Forces Children's Education Resources section.

<https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/resources>

Direct PDF download link...

<https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/GIRFEC-Poster-PDF-Links.pdf>

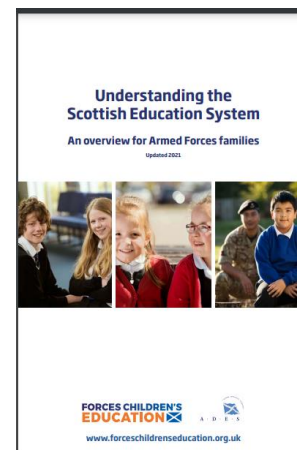
14. ADES Resources – Forces Children’s Education

Understanding the Scottish Education System

<https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ADES-FCE-USES-for-Armed-Forces-Families.pdf>

Guide to Scottish education created for families

Download our guide to the Scottish education system to help make each armed forces child’s transition to Scotland as smooth as possible.



A new guidance document packed with advice and help for educators has been launched by Forces Children’s Education (FCE). **Toolkit for Teachers**

<https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/new-toolkit-and-advice-for-teachers>



Toolkit for teachers



A new guidance document packed with advice and help for educators has been launched by Forces Children’s Education (FCE).

The FCE *Toolkit for teachers* is full of useful information for educators who work with Forces families

The Toolkit for Teachers has been developed to help staff answer the questions they will have when a pupil from an Armed Forces family joins their school.

Understanding these students and their unique experiences and challenges is vital to help them gain the knowledge, skills and resilience they need to reach their full potential.

Supporting Armed Forces families: a professional learning resource



Professional Learning Resource available on Forces Children's Education
<https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/supporting-armed-forces-families>

Forces Children's Education has created a version of this valuable learning resource (also available on GLOW) that everyone can access and work through. You do not have to complete every section at once, you can pick and choose the steps you feel are most relevant to you.

It means educators, and other professionals, can gain a greater understanding of the experiences and life journeys of armed forces families. It will enable them to be more informed when working with families to provide necessary educational and pastoral support and be better placed to support positive mental health and wellbeing over challenges such as mobility, separation, and loss.

We hope you will find it beneficial.

These are great resources to access during the Month of the Military Child.

15. Royal British Legion: FUNDING

The President's Award Scheme


The President's Award Scheme can provide educational grants and scholarships to the children of serving and ex-Service non-commissioned ranks up to university age. One-off grants of up to £500 are available to help pay for course fees, public transport costs, textbooks, course equipment, specialist clothing and more.

Alongside the grants, scholarships are available for applicants who are going to university and aged 21 or under. A continuation application is required each year and is accepted up to age 23. Up to £1,500 per year can be awarded to Service children going to university to study for their first undergraduate degree; usually awards are made to help with accommodation costs.

The awards are decided by committee who will look at the individual circumstances of each applicant. The Committee meets tri-annually in January, July, and September.

Full information on the awards and application process can be found here: www.rblws.org.uk/how-we-help/president-s-award-scheme

16. Armed Forces Covenant Fund – Forces for Change



NEW FUNDING FOR 2022/23
Covenant Fund

Funding projects that support specific groups with specific needs to achieve high levels of impact

Force for Change
Grants of up to **£10,000** for local projects that respond to hidden and known needs within Armed Forces Communities.
Grants up to £10k
Opens April 2022

Reaching & Supporting Armed Forces communities
Grants for projects that support Armed Forces communities facing specific difficulties or challenges.
Grants up to £100k+
Opens April 2022

Transformational Grant Programme
Significant grants to transform and develop sustainable approaches to addressing unmet needs.
Grants up to £300k
Opens Summer 2022

Targeted Support for Armed Forces Communities

What impact should projects have?

- Improve support for Armed Forces communities with specific needs
- Ensure that more people within Armed Forces communities can access and shape support that is relevant to their needs
- Building sustainable solutions to complex challenges
- Programmes will have a significant focus on ensuring that solutions can be sustained beyond the life of the grant

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

Supporting the Armed Forces Covenant through funding real change
covenantfund.org.uk

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust is delighted to announce three new funding programmes which will open in Spring and Summer 2022.

All the three programmes have a focus on providing targeted support for veterans, Armed Forces families and serving personnel.

This can be for new and additional support; or could build on work that organisations have already done.

Further information is available at,

<https://covenantfund.org.uk/>

17. Childminding in Scotland

High-quality childcare and a fantastic career choice

Scotland's childminders provide nurturing and flexible childcare to more than 30,000 children across the country.

Children learn and play in a home-from-home environment, with a mix of other ages and in small groups. The low child-to-adult ratio and home-based setting can be a particularly helpful environment for children from families who may regularly transition between postings or deployments; particularly when moving away from existing support networks of family and friends. Evidence shows that childminding can enhance a child's early learning, confidence, and social development as they have the opportunity to learn from real-life experiences.

All professional childminders in Scotland are registered and inspected by the [Care Inspectorate](#) – and consistently achieve the highest quality ratings. In line with all other childcare providers in Scotland, childminders are guided by the Curriculum for Excellence, and are required to follow the values and principles of the 'Getting It Right for Every Child', (GIRFEC), framework. You have peace of mind that your children's unique educational, developmental, and emotional needs are being well supported by early years professionals with the skills and knowledge to do so.

Did you know?

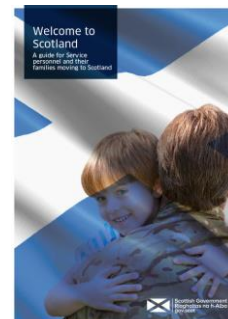
All children aged three and four, along with eligible two-year-olds, will be entitled to use their 1140 hours per year of Scottish Government funded childcare (sometimes referred to as 'funded ELC') fully with a childminder (as long as they are registered as a 'partner provider' with their local authority), or as part of a "blended" placement with a nursery, from 1st August 2021.

[Visit our website here](#) for more information on this, to find out more about the benefits of childminding and the work of the Scottish Childminding Association ...plus find out why becoming a childminder is a great career choice!



18. Welcome to Scotland – A guide for Service Personnel and their families moving to Scotland (Scottish Government publication)

<https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/scottish-government-guide-welcomes-families>



19. Resources: Reports, Newsletters / Websites

There are several newsletters & resources being produced that may contain material of interest to you, with some contact information and links:

- **The Naval Family Federation (NFF)** <https://nff.org.uk/>
- **The Army Families' Federation (AFF)** <https://aff.org.uk/>
- **The RAF Family Federation (RAF-FF)** <https://www.raf-ff.org.uk/>

- **Argyll & Bute Council – Armed Forces Children & Young People:**
Facebook: Service Pupil Advisor Helensburgh & Lomond
<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/armed-forces>

Argyll & Bute - Issue #8: March 2022

<https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk/issue-8-march-2022>

- **Highland Council – Military Liaison Group (Education) – MLG**
https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/886/schools_-_additional_support_needs/833/armed_forces_-_support_for_families_and_schools

Key Messages for Educators are now live on the Highland Council website.

Early Years & Primary School

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oVao4bglHR4U8l2Y7EsGqNmioouL61ZS/view>

Secondary School

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WKrLE48OLmJHCdoPhxUgxxkZBFLEOeiUj/view>

“These resources were informed and created from the voices of Highland’s Children and Young People from Armed Forces families. Thanks to all Children and Young People, their families and MLG partners for their valuable input and support in the development of these resources.” *Highland Council*

- **Forces Children Scotland** (formerly the Royal Caledonian Education Trust – RCET)
<https://forceschildrenscotland.org.uk/>

- **SSCE Wales – Supporting Service Children in Education**
www.sscecymru.co.uk

- **Forces Children’s Education (ADES) Scotland**
<https://www.forceschildrenseducation.scot>

[Forces Children's Education | Facebook](#)

[Forces Children's Education \(@ForcesChildren\) / Twitter](#)



Note: this newsletter is compiled for distribution across the ADES National Transitions Officer networks; these include ADES, Directors of Education, Local Authority Lead Officers for armed forces families, Headteachers, Scottish Government, COSLA, Education Scotland, partnership groups in education and related professions, MOD Armed Forces Families & Safeguarding (AFFS), MOD in Scotland (Tri-Service), Family Federations, Third Sector partnerships, colleagues across jurisdictions. . .

Hopefully, this information will be of interest and helpful to you in your support for children and young people of Armed Forces families in Scottish schools and early years settings (Regular, Reserve & Veterans/ex-Service)