

SERVICE FAMILIES NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025



The Garrison **ASSIST**
Project **EMBED**
Catterick

‘Living in our SEND Shoes’

Over the past couple of years, eight schools serving Catterick Garrison have been working on an initiative called the Garrison ASSIST Project (GAP). Collectively, almost two-thirds of the 1250 or so of their pupils are Service children - and about a quarter of these have Special Education Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND), bringing additional challenges to these schools.

The project, concluding in the 2024/25 academic year, aims to deliver the following vision:

‘We want to ensure that provision for SEND children & young people on the Garrison is the best it can be. To achieve this, our group of schools will work towards a consistent approach, and through our dedicated teams of highly trained and knowledgeable staff, we will ensure no time is wasted putting in place appropriate support for our SEND Service pupils.’

During the project, a parents’ forum was established. Most of its members have struggled to navigate SEND processes for their children and speak of how military lifestyle has exacerbated many of the SEND challenges they have faced. A common challenge heard by the project’s lead was the parents’ view that school staff often ‘don’t get it’ – particularly if they have limited experience of military lifestyle themselves. This, they feel, often leads to frustrations of not being understood which, in turn, can damage home to school relations.

A series of five short animations, covering a range of topics, have been created to help staff, and other professionals, gain a greater awareness of the difficulties that some Armed Forces families with children with SEND face. Click on the titles below to view the films.

[Posting Moves](#)

[Trauma and
Burnout](#)

[Language, labels and the
challenges of getting a diagnosis](#)

[Parental
Separation](#)

[Relationships](#)

An accompanying short introductory film provides the context and an overview of GAP, before then introducing the six parents who appear as avatars in the animations.

[Introductory video](#)

Whilst not all military families with SEND children have negative educational experiences, many do because of the requirements of their Service. It is hoped that by engaging in these films, education professionals will be upskilled in their knowledge and understanding, and that this will lead to a more consistent empathetic approach to supporting military families that have children with additional needs.

Feedback and questions are welcomed, garrisonassistproject@gmail.com

Click here for
more
information



Service Children's Progression
ALLIANCE

Get involved



Seeds of Love Family Art Day



Mackenzie Thorpe



Family
Art
Day



Tuesday 8th April



Risedale School

Places can be
booked via



Exciting news! You can now book places for the Family Art Day via PT Childcare. Each place costs £20 and includes access to 4 creative workshops with a range of incredible practitioners and a chance to meet and be inspired by Mackenzie Thorpe. The event is taking place at Risedale School and is open to children aged 10-16 years old. Attendees will need to bring a packed lunch but drinks and snacks will also be available. Adults are welcome to stay for the beginning and end of the day.



Updates



Childcare Explained

The cost of childcare is a big consideration when it comes to families' budgets. Because funded childcare provision is different in each of the devolved nations, it will vary for military families moving around the UK.

Army&You gives an overview of options here:



Are you considering boarding school for your child?

UK Boarding Schools for British Forces

A British boarding education remains a popular choice for many Forces families due to their requirement to remain mobile, and the disruption to education this can cause. Many families strive to find stability of education and hope their children will find lifelong friendships. Knowing where to begin your search and finding the ideal school for your child's individual needs can seem like a daunting task. This is where we can help, with 20 years' experience of offering free and impartial advice, guiding both Forces, and civilian families through the process, and finding their ideal school. Please click here to [check out the services we offer](#).

ANDERSON
education

Celebrating 25 years

Destinations Festival

Save the date!

Hosted at

York St John University

Wednesday 9th April, 10am-3pm

Website and more
information coming soon!

Completely
free event!

University
Information

Drop in
sessions

Careers
Information

Learn about
Student Life

Fun activities
on campus

Free Lunch
Provided

Training



Service Children's Progression ALLIANCE

Thrivng Lives Toolkit Case studies: a new resource for school supporting Service children



For more
information
click here

The SCiP Alliance have launched the first seven case studies in the Thriving Lives Toolkit Case Study Bank, a new resource designed to help schools improve their support for Service children. This initiative, funded by the Naval Children's Charity, aims to provide a wealth of well-evidenced examples of best practice to assist schools in assessing their progress using the Thriving Lives Toolkit self-assessment.

These first seven case studies are now available to schools across the UK, offering real-world examples of how schools are putting the seven principles of effective support into practice. The case studies cover a range of primary and secondary schools at different stages of the self-assessment process and reflect the diverse needs of Service children, from those in schools with low proportions of Service children to those with higher numbers.



Thrivng Lives Toolkit Webinar: Principle 6 - Parents are engaged

In this webinar, the Survey Tool, a key feature of the Thriving Lives Toolkit, will be introduced. Designed to help schools gather valuable insights from parents of Service children, this tool enables schools to:

- Develop a deeper understanding to inform work with Service children and families.
- Respond proactively to the needs and opportunities of Service children, including mitigating the impacts of mobility and deployment.
- Evaluate progress in implementing the Thriving Lives Toolkit.
- Enhance delivery against the seven principles of effective support outlined in the Toolkit.

SCiP Alliance Webinar - Principle 6 - Parents are engaged

Format: 30 minutes of presentation, followed by an optional 30-minute Q&A session.

Further webinars in this series are planned. Visit the SCiP website for more details.



Click here to register or use this QR code for more information



Useful contacts



Army Welfare Service
Serving the Service Community

For all Personal Support enquiries and referrals please contact the Intake and Assessment Team (the AWS welfare single point of contact) at:

RC-AWS-IAT-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk or 01904 882053 (civ) / 94777 3053 (mil)



21 Multi-Role Medical Regiment

Welfare Officer: Capt Kyle Bruce

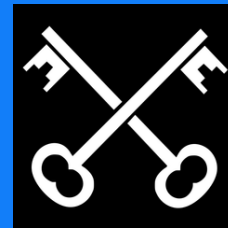
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(Out of hours welfare please call the guardroom on 01904 442864 and ask for the Duty Welfare Officer)

Unit Welfare Clerk
Mrs Susan Wilson
Email: 34Hosp-rhq-welfare-clerk@mod.gov.uk



2 Signals Regiment

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Hello everyone!

Not long now until we reach the end of the Spring term. I'm really looking forward to April as we celebrate Service children across York and North Yorkshire. The Service Children Awards are shaping up to be another fantastic event. I feel very fortunate and privileged to be involved; to raise awareness and help recognise and celebrate the contributions made by our wonderful Service children & Young People and wider communities.

Being part of the Armed Forces is not just about the serving person. The notion of 'Service First' is a principle that affects the whole family. Families commit to life in the military and take on all that comes with it together. Service children & Young people make sacrifices, as much as the adults, in their family: changing schools, friends, clubs, houses, dealing with deployments & separation, missed celebrations and special events, the list goes on, and yet they are generally resilient, flexible and adaptable characters that 'get on with it', accepting their Serving parent's job and personal sacrifices to serve their country. But, Service children are not all the same, they are not all resilient, they do not all just 'get on with it' - it is important we recognise each child as an individual and support their unique needs.

Children and Young people of our Armed Forces deserve to be recognised for the unique part they play in serving our country - how are you going to recognise and celebrate during MOTMC?

Beccy

Supporters

