

# Service Families' Newsletter

September 2025



Hello everyone!

Welcome back to school and a very warm welcome to all our new Service children and their families. I trust that you are all settling well in to your new homes, respective schools and jobs.

Moving to a new area can come with challenges, but I want to assure you that you are not alone. We have a fantastic support network for military families in York including but by no means limited to: experienced staff in schools, AWS, Unit Welfare and me, so please do not hesitate to ask should you need anything.

I really hope that you enjoy your time in York and make the most of all this wonderful city has to offer. Have a wonderful autumn term!

*Becky*



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# Service children in Education



"We don't want to be seen as any different; we just want to be understood"

As I start my 11th year in the role of Service Families Liaison Officer, the statement above serves as reminder about the children and young people in our military community. York has a rich military history. Life in the Armed Forces is transient, but families in York are fortunate to have experienced teachers and professionals who are equipped with the understanding and skills to recognise and support the needs of Service children so that their experiences at school and their time in our wonderful city is the best it can be.

The last couple of years have provided me with new and exciting opportunities to engage with and support the military community across York and to work with schools, universities and other professionals to raise the profile and awareness of Service children and Young people. I have delivered the 'Supporting Service Children & Young People in Education' professional training programme to in excess of 500 teachers, school staff, university PGCE students and new-beginning teachers, and professionals working with the military community. The purpose of the training is to raise awareness of the challenges that may be faced by Service children & Young People, due to the Armed Forces lifestyle, that have the potential to impact education and well-being and to equip participants with the knowledge and understanding so they are more confident to provide effective support and be in a better position to be able to support this group of children and help them and their families adapt and thrive.

With the success of new funding, I will be developing the current training programme and will be creating new content that focuses on SEND Service children, a significant area of challenge for some military families. I would be especially grateful to hear your experiences of SEND and the challenges for military life.

If you would be happy to talk to me and share your experience, please get in touch via email: [r.dixon@ebor.academy](mailto:r.dixon@ebor.academy).

# SERVICE FAMILIES LIAISON OFFICER

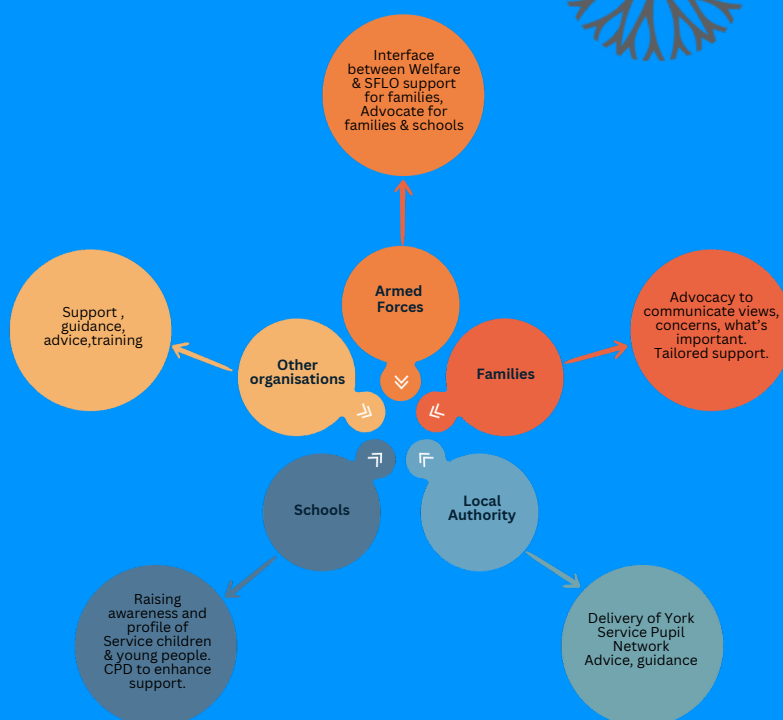
*Supporting the Armed Forces*



Having spent many years as part of the military community in the RAF, I have experienced first hand the challenges that are inherent to duty and service within the Armed Forces (eg, frequent moves, long periods of separation, deployment, little or no contact) and have witnessed the impact they can have on military families and children. The impact that military life has on families should never be underestimated.

I interface across all areas working both proactively and reactively offering support, advice and guidance.

Working collaborative is key to improving the scale and quality of support for the military community and our impact on Service children & young people's lives.



Beccy Dixon  
Service Families  
Liaison Officer



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# What's on...



## It's not just a Coffee Morning

It's a chance to meet people, create networks and let the little ones play. All military families & serving personnel are welcome.



Hurst Hall Community Centre every  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month  
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.



We ask for a small donation of £1 per family which goes towards the cost of refreshments.



## Youth Clubs



AWS Junior and Senior Youth Clubs (for 5-16 years) will start again in mid-September. Parents of existing members will be notified by email and a Facebook post when dates have been set.

New children are always welcome and parents can register them for these sessions in advance using the link below:

### REGISTRATION

Children can then just come along to any sessions they like.

For more information, please contact michael.bailey124@mod.gov.uk Tel. 077 6700 8982 (currently out of the office until 09/09/25).

- Michael Bailey, Community Development Worker, Army Welfare Service

**Drop in clinics in York**

Hobmoor Children's Centre  
Monday 9am-12pm

Clifton Children's Centre  
Thursday 9am-12pm

The Avenues Children's Centre  
Friday 9am-12pm

Fulford Library  
The first Tuesday of every month  
9:30am-11:30am

Hurst Hall, Strensall  
The second Thursday of every month  
10am-12pm

Healthy Child Service

HCS Telephone 01904 555475  
HCS-secure@york.gov.uk  
<https://www.raiseyork.co.uk/healthy-child-service>

Healthy Child Service

Please call 01904 555475 if you would like support with:

- Sleep
- Speech and language
- Toilet training
- Healthy eating
- Parenting support

Healthy Child Service

# Get involved

New surveys - Have your voice heard.

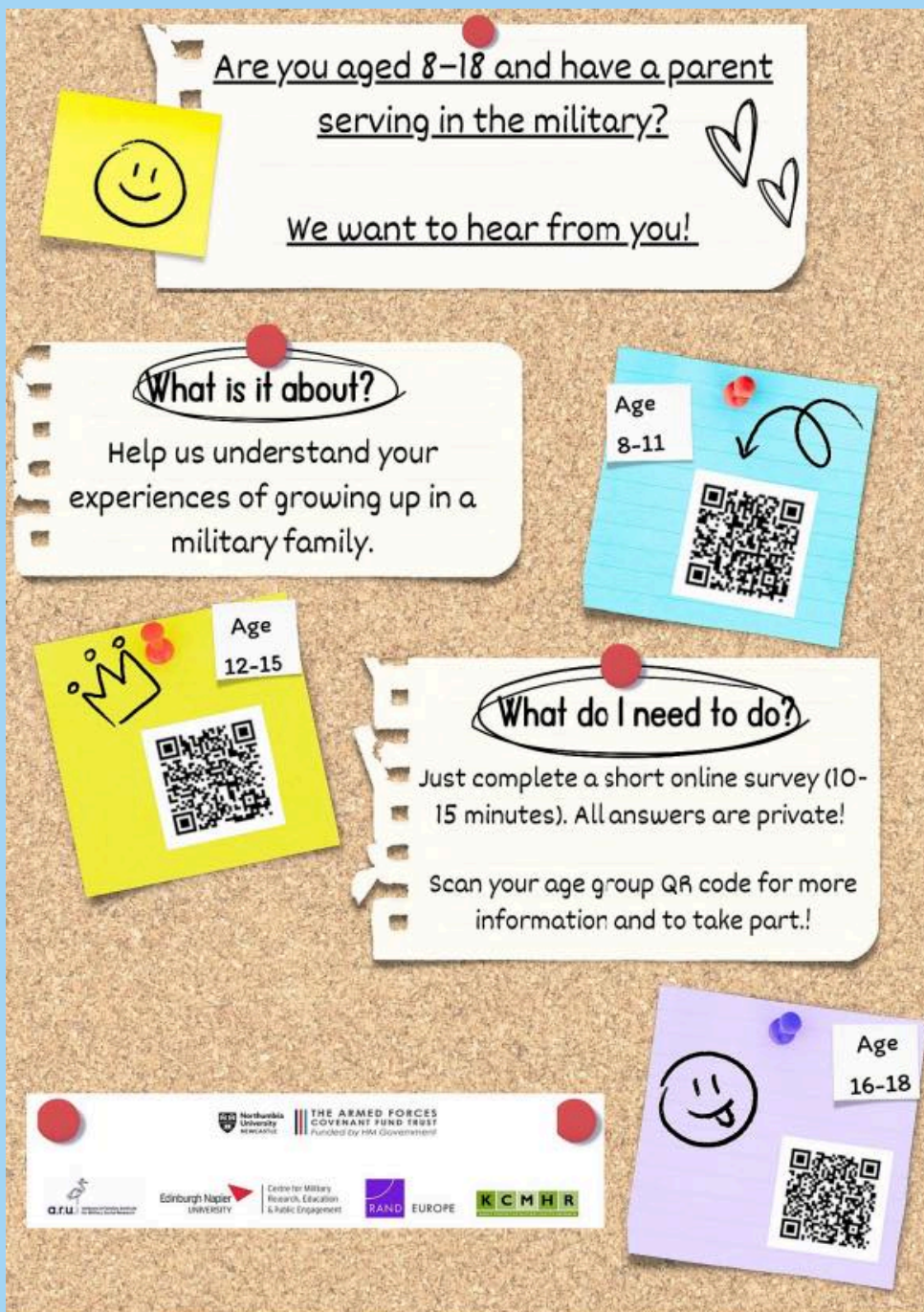
Are you a Service child aged 8 - 18? We would love to hear from you!

This is an opportunity to share your experience of growing up in a military family



Links for Survey:

- Age 8 - 11
- Age 12 - 15
- Age 16 - 18





# Service Families' Liaison Officer



## A message from me...

Hello everyone!

I hope that the new school year has started well for all of you.

I'm acutely aware of the challenges that come with service life and the impact these may have on Service children and schools; I also recognise and champion the rich experiences and positive traits that Service children can bring to communities, schools and friends.

As well as supporting Service children, the wider military community, schools and Armed Forces welfare units locally, I continue to advocate on a national, policy and government level for Service children, to raise awareness of the challenges and barriers that have the potential to impact Service children. I work with many organisations championing the needs of Service children; working collaboratively our voices are strengthened in the hope that we can influence policy and drive change, whilst taking the opportunity to highlight and celebrate the rich diversity of service life and Service children.

As I move in to my 11th year supporting the military community in York, I will continue to raise awareness and advocate on behalf of our Service children and young people. I am certain that each child who is new to our city will be given the very best support by school staff, but should you need any advice or support please don't hesitate to contact me.

Have a great term!

Beccy



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## Supporters

