

Service Families' Newsletter

October 2025



Your new Families Hub

Explore our Families Hub – a portal that signposts to information and support – to help you navigate Service family life.

Explore your options with:



Housing



Health and wellbeing



Finance



Partner support



Education and childcare



Safeguarding

Find the Families Hub



Visit the [Discover my Benefits website](#) or search for "Discover my Benefits" on any search engine.



To find out what help is available, use the following link to take you to the new Families Hub

www.discovermybenefits.mod.uk/families/

New Families Hub

Do you and your loved ones know where to find information on Service family life? Our new Families Hub signposts to helpful support, guidance and useful organisations.

For the first time, you and your family members can access a "one stop shop" digital platform – which signposts to a wealth of information, guidance and support – to help you navigate Service family life.

The Families Hub is for all Armed Forces (Regular and Reserve) personnel and families, wherever you are in your Armed Forces journey – from the moment you enter the Forces, through to when you leave.

We recognise the significant role that Service families play in the Armed Forces community, and the unique pressures that can come with Service life, particularly in times of deployment and separation. To address these challenges, there's a wide range of family friendly policies, guidance, and organisations that provide support.

Information



How do we support military families?

We provide online peer support to individuals on a one-to one basis, and group session. We've also created a very caring and non-judgmental online peer support forum exclusively for military families (Dandelion Connect), have teamed up with Reading Force to facilitate an online book club; uniting like minded individuals from our community through a love of books. In addition to this we are collaborating with national organisations like Sands, to bring strategic level support to military families who have experienced bereavement; and working with stakeholders from the military and healthcare sector to raise awareness about the multi-faceted challenges we face, particularly in the perinatal period.



Hurst Hall Community Centre, Border Road, Strensall.

The community centre can be booked by serving personnel, their families and centre volunteers for parties and events. We ask for a donation of £20 for a morning or afternoon, or £40 for the whole day.

Facilities in the community centre.

- DBI WIFI.
- Kitchen with cooker, fridge, freezer, Berco Boiler, Dishwasher, microwave, toasters and kettles.
- Entrance hall - Pool and football table.
- Main community hall - Portable Bluetooth speaker, surround sound, projector with pull down screen.
- Community centre garden - Various children's trikes, scooters and play toys.
- Community garden trugs - 3 garden trugs to grow vegetables or flowers.





**Pinnacle
Service Families**

Working with



**Defence
Infrastructure
Organisation**



Living in Service Family Accommodation? Facing issues at home?

Join us at our drop-in sessions at your local housing office. Our friendly team is here to support you. We look forward to seeing you. No appointment needed.

**Every Weds between 09:00 and 11:00
Hurst Hall Community Centre**



What's on...



SERVICE FAMILIES
LIAISON OFFICER

ARMY WELFARE SERVICE
ARMY BE THE BEST

Play Session
for Service children aged 5-10 years
Strensall: Tuesdays 5.00pm-6.30pm

Arts & Crafts

Sports

Games

Baking

Messy Play

Imaginative Play

• Fun activities • Make friends • Try new things
• Supports well-being • Supports learning

Youth Club
for Service young people aged 11-16 years
Strensall: Tuesdays 7.00pm-8.30pm

Pool

Arts & Crafts

Baking

Sports

Fussball

Air Hockey

Table Tennis

Trips

• Somewhere to go • Something to do • Someone to talk to
• Make friends • Fun activities • Supports well-being
• Try new things • Learn new skills

Young people can bring a non-Service friend with them.

Scan the QR code to register children for sessions.

• Strensall: Hurst Hall Community Centre, Border Road YO32 5SR
Sessions cost £1 and there is also a tuck shop selling sweets. Please contact Michael Bailey, AWS Community Development Worker, for more formation. Email: michael.bailey124@mod.gov.uk Tel: 077 6700 8982



ARMY WELFARE SERVICE
ARMY BE THE BEST

Volunteers Needed!

Do you like playing games, sports, arts & crafts or baking?
If yes, could you help at our weekly Play Session for Service children aged 5-11 years (Tues 5.00pm-6.30pm) or Youth Club for Service young people aged 11+ years (Tues 7.00pm-8.30pm) held in Hurst Hall Community Centre, Strensall?

Volunteer Requirements:

- Enjoy working with children and young people
- Aged 18+
- Agree to a DBS check
- References taken up

Volunteer Benefits:

- A fun and rewarding experience
- Free training
- Ongoing support
- Enhance your CV and job applications

For more information, please get in touch!

Michael Bailey, Community Development Worker
Low Moor Centre, Fulford Tel: 077 6700 8982
Email: michael.bailey124@mod.gov.uk

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
1st and 3rd 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.

Healthy Child 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

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

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

'Early Start' Sessions - Dates for the Diary

York Learning will be running this course for parents, grandparents and carers of pre-school children in the Low Moor Community Centre located on the SFA patch in Fulford.

The course will focus on your child's speech, language and communication. The sessions will try out and talk about activities and ways you can support their development and widen their experiences at home and in the outdoor world.

YORK
Learning
Family Learning



Early Start

Do you want to help your little ones thrive?

Let's play our way to super listening, talking, and sharing skills! We'll giggle with rhymes, explore wonderful books, and have fun with shapes, colours, and numbers.

Come join our free Early Start sessions to learn easy and fun ways to help your child grow. You'll get to meet other lovely families, swap stories, enjoy arts and crafts and share ideas.



Wednesday mornings 9.30 - 11.30, 5 Nov - 3 Dec
Low Moor Centre, Bray Road, YO10 4JG*

Free childcare is available but please book to avoid disappointment.

For more information call Kerry Johnson on **07554 115547**
or email kerry.johnson@york.gov.uk
or visit www.yorklearning.org.uk

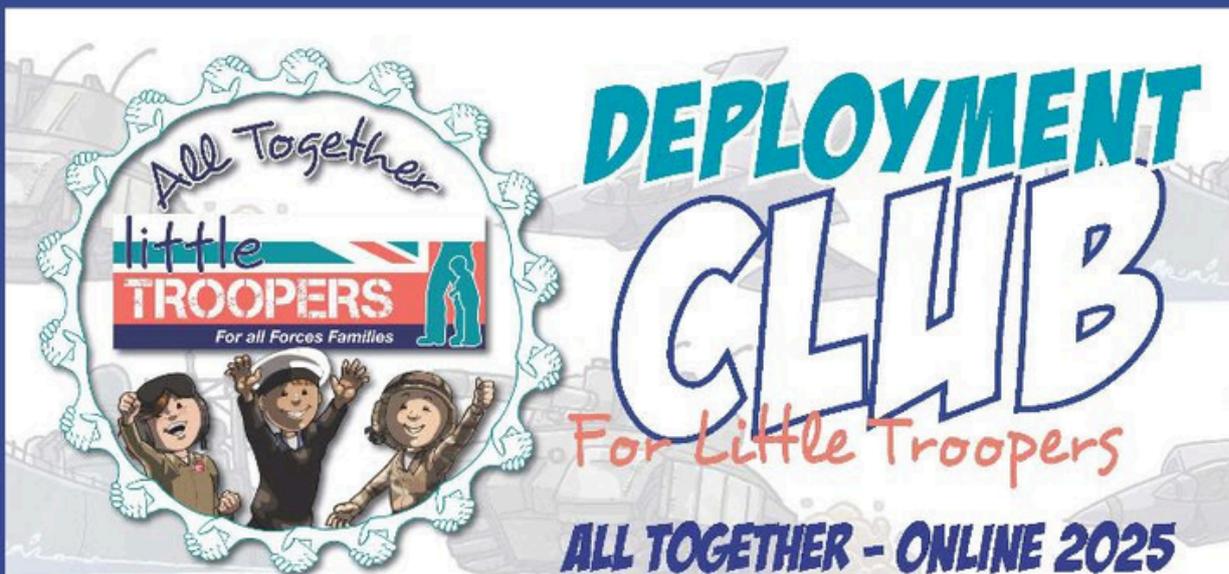
 Funded by
UK Government

About All Together Online



All Together is a club that brings military children together. As part of this, All Together Online offers a series of exciting, live, online events especially for military children under 11 who have a parent away from home for any military reason.

Everyone from the serving military community is warmly welcome to join.



SEPT 20th 11am **Devon Science**

OCT 4th 10am **Dinostar** (Dinosaur museum workshop)
18th 11am **The Brick People** (Lego)
29th 11am **Cook Stars**

NOV 15th 11am **Space Detectives** (Blast Off)
29th 10am **Art Base**

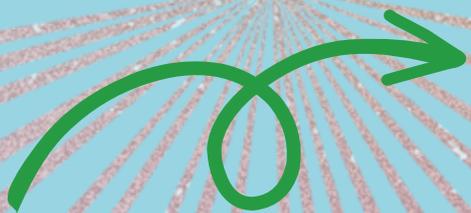
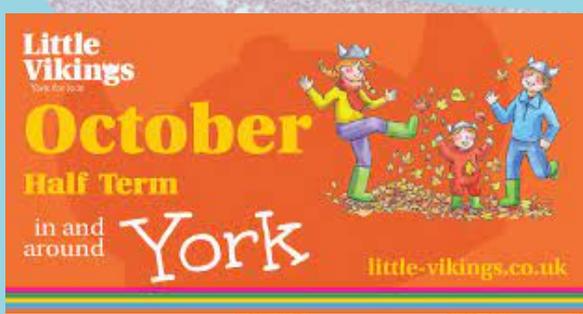
DEC 13th 11am **Zest Dance** (Christmas theme)



There's so much on offer in and around York - take a look!



Visit York



Service Families' Liaison Officer



A message from me...

I hope you have all had a great start to the academic year and that your children are enjoying all that school life has to offer.

Half term is creeping closer! There's lots to do in and around York this half term. Take a look at the websites in this newsletter for ideas and inspiration. Remember fun times don't always have to cost an arm and a leg or indeed anything at all! York is a beautiful city with so much to offer. How about a visit to the Railway Museum, a walk on the ancient walls or further afield to the North Yorkshire Moors.

'We don't want to be any different; we just want to be understood'
- Service children voice

The statement above underpins the reason I do what I do; raising awareness of Service children & young people, their families and the challenges Armed Forces children and families may face. Raising awareness with schools, local authorities and other organisations, develops understanding; it's impact, professionals are more confident and better equipped to support Service children and young people.

Please feel free to contact me.

I wish you all a very relaxing and fun half term holiday!



Beccy

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Supporters

