

Service Families Newsletter



November 2025

A message from me...

I am proud to be part of the military community. As a veteran military family, I look back with immense and unwavering pride at my husband's service and our family life in the Royal Air Force.

At this time of Remembrance, it is important that we take a moment to reflect and acknowledge the courage, sacrifice, and service of all members of the Armed Forces — past and present — who have served to protect our freedoms and keep our country safe.

It is also a time to honour and thank all Service children and Young people, and their families. Your strength, resilience, and unwavering support are a vital part of the shared story of Remembrance. Whether through separation, relocation, or the daily challenges of military life, your contributions do not go unnoticed. Thank you for all the ways you support and serve too.

We wear our poppies with pride to remember the people who gave their lives in the past, those who continue to serve today, and the families who stand beside them.

We remember them. We thank them.

Lest we forget.

Beccy

Remembrance

What does the poppy mean to you?

In Flanders' Fields

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' fields.

Major John McCrae, 1915

**We Will
Remember Them**





A Remembrance Guide for Children

Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life.

We remember the Armed Forces, and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth, the vital role played by the emergency services and those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict or terrorism.

Remembrance Day, on November 11, marks the end of World War One in 1918 and is a day to remember all those who have died in wars and conflicts. People wear red poppies, symbolizing the flowers that grew on battlefields, to honor the sacrifices of armed forces, families, emergency services, and civilians affected by conflict and terrorism.

Every November we give pause and thanks to the men and women who have bravely served our country. It is a time for silent reflection and sombre tributes.

Ahead of this year's Remembrance Sunday, how will we teach our children and young people why it's so important?

To help families and educators, Forces Children's Education have created this short informative guide, which provides advice and suggestions on how to explain remembrance.

Please note, this is a general guide and all activities, events and information given should be age appropriate and based on the needs and skillset of the children and young people.



Remembrance
Guide for
Children

Click the links or
scan QR codes to
access
Remembrance
resources



Army Families Federation



What is AFF? What do we do? How can we help you? Find out more about who we are, who we're here for and how you can get in touch for support



The logo for the Army Families Federation, consisting of the letters "aff" in a bold, lowercase font, followed by the words "army families federation" in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font.

WHAT IS AFF?

A green checkmark inside a white circle, which is itself inside a green square.

AFF is:
A small independent charity, separate from the Army and service providers.

A green checkmark inside a white circle, which is itself inside a green square.

We are here for:
Army personnel and families, wherever you are in the world

The logo for the Army Families Federation, consisting of the letters "aff" in a bold, lowercase font, followed by the words "army families federation" in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font.

WHAT WE DO

A yellow checkmark inside a white circle, which is itself inside a yellow square.

We offer confidential guidance and help you with issues you are facing due to being an Army family.

A yellow checkmark inside a white circle, which is itself inside a yellow square.

We use your evidence to highlight problems to the chain of command or service providers, so we can work with them to achieve improvements for Army personnel and families.

A yellow checkmark inside a white circle, which is itself inside a yellow square.

We will work hard to help you but if we don't have the right knowledge or contacts for your particular situation, we will help you find the right person to speak to.

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WHAT WE DO

A green checkmark inside a white circle, which is itself inside a green square.

We use your evidence to push for change in the Army, MOD and Government's policies and processes.

A green checkmark inside a white circle, which is itself inside a green square.

We need you to tell us what you're experiencing so that we can work to help you in your Army family life.

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GET IN TOUCH

An icon of an envelope with a checkmark inside.

contact@aff.org.uk

An icon of a mobile phone.

01264 554004

An icon of a globe with a checkmark inside.

aff.org.uk

On social media:

The Facebook logo, a white 'f' inside a blue circle.

Army Families Federation - AFF

The Instagram logo, a camera outline inside a circle.

@armyfamiliesfederation

The Twitter logo, a bird inside a circle.

@The_AFF

The LinkedIn logo, the letters "in" inside a blue circle.

Army Families Federation (AFF)

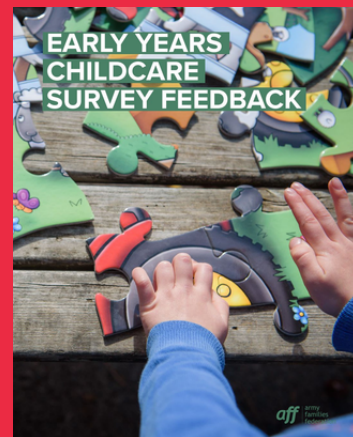
Click here to go to the AFF website



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Sharing the experience

Army childcare survey



The Army Families Federations' (AFF) recent early years childcare survey revealed that Army parents face the same challenges as their civilian counterparts when it comes to finding suitable childcare places. However, the struggle is often intensified by isolation from extended family support.

More than 200 families responded to the survey, sharing their experiences of childcare for under-fives both in the UK and overseas. A key finding was the variation in childcare provision across the different UK nations, which families highlighted as a significant issue.

Why was the survey done?

The survey was carried out by the Army Families Federation (AFF) to better understand the challenges Army families face in accessing early years childcare, both in the UK and overseas.

AFF Head of Policy Rachel Smith explained: "We wanted to understand the individual stories around the barriers that Service personnel and families had around their experience of accessing early years childcare.

"Sharing the experience of Army families in their own words with the MOD was really important to AFF in order for us to be able to advocate for better communication and greater understanding of the issues that families face."

AFF will use the evidence from the survey to help the MOD understand the issues you face. It will advocate for better communication on the childcare offer to help prevent families from missing out.



Click on the logo or scan QR code for more information



What's on...



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

MORE THAN JUST A COFFEE MORNING

STAY CONNECTED. MEET PEOPLE. HAVE FUN!!

EVERY THURSDAY
9.30 TO 11.00 AM

LOW MOOR CENTRE,
BRAY ROAD, FULFORD

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

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

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.



Army Welfare Service
Serving the Service Community

Army Welfare Service

Community Support

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Strensall: Hurst Hall Community Centre, Border Road

Sunday 30th November 3.00pm - 5.00pm

Fulford: Low Moor Centre, Bray Road

Monday, 1st December 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Would you be interested in some festive fun where you'll create your own beautiful Christmas wreath for your front door with festive decorations such as cinnamon sticks, dried oranges, pine cones, ribbon and baubles?

The cost is just £9, payable in advance to book your place, and includes all materials and a glass of mulled wine (or soft drink, tea/coffee) and a mince pie!

This session is suitable for adults - young people aged 14+ years may also take part when accompanied by an adult. Parents may also bring younger children if needed for childcare purposes.

To book places, please email michael.bailey124@mod.gov.uk.
- Michael Bailey, Community Development Worker, Army Welfare Service



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.



DEPLOYMENT CLUB

For Little Troopers

ALL TOGETHER - ONLINE 2025

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)

www.littletroopers.net X: @littletroopers Email: info@littletroopers.net Facebook: littletroopersathome

PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED. ONLINE ACCESS WILL BE SENT TO ALL REGISTERED ATTENDEES

Calling all teenagers!

Looking for military young people for SQUAD

What is SQUAD?

SQUAD is a podcast for military teenagers. It's a platform for military children aged 13-18 to share their own views and experiences of military life.

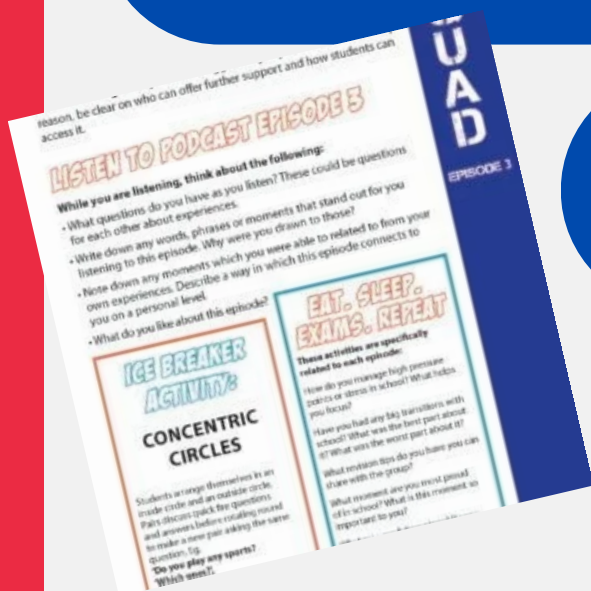
Little Troopers have announced that work has officially begun on the podcast SQUAD Series Two!

They are looking for young people from military families who have a passion for digital media to be involved in the making.



[Click here and listen now](#)

[Apply here](#)



Scan the QR code for more information



Training

Supporting Service children & Young people with SEND



Listening to the voices of Service families

SEND Service Children & Young People

Would you like to share your experiences and have your voice heard?

Service children face unique challenges that have the potential to negatively affect their wellbeing and academic performance; such challenges are exacerbated for families who have children with SEND.

I am currently designing a new training programme which will help school staff and professionals reflect on and develop support for Service children with SEND, it's important to consider the unique challenges they face and how tailored, inclusive strategies can better support their education and wellbeing.

Understanding the emotional, social, and academic impact of military life—and recognising the often invisible struggles and hidden vulnerabilities that many of our Armed Forces children & young people face—is fundamental to achieving both cultural and operational excellence.

Through targeted training and strategic activity, we can enhance the quality of support provided to Service children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

This informed approach ensures that support systems are not only inclusive, but also responsive to the unique and evolving needs of this important group of learners

Understanding the lived experiences of families with children and young people with SEND is incredibly valuable in shaping effective, empathetic, and responsive support.

By listening to and learning from these families, we gain critical insight into the challenges the families face and the strengths they bring, enabling us to design support systems that are genuinely inclusive and tailored to real needs.

"Transfer and continuation of care when moving around is a nightmare"

"We have moved seven times and he is seven years old. Transition from school to school is horrendous, different counties need different paperwork, my son has had to go through numerous diagnosis to confirm he has ASD."

"We had to give up moving with the Army to make a secure home for our disabled children."

"We have been rejected for an EHCP once already as we're moving and an EHCP will need to come out of another budget, not the local budget here."

If you would like to share your experiences, please contact me [here](#), I'd love to hear from you.



r.dixon@ebor.academy



07895 202551

LEST WE FORGET

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

