

# Service Families' Newsletter

January 2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



## Supporting Service Families: Training and Development Update

Over the past two years, I have designed and delivered a comprehensive training package of continuing professional development aimed at supporting teachers and professionals who work with Service children and Young people. The training is designed to deepen understanding of the unique challenges faced by military families, build awareness, and strengthen support networks across education settings and support services. The training also helps ensure that those working with Service children feel confident and well-equipped to meet their academic, emotional, and wellbeing needs.

I am proud to share that the programme has now been successfully delivered to more than 650 PGCE secondary and primary students, teaching staff, and professionals across York, North Yorkshire, and the East Riding. The positive feedback received reflects the real impact this training is having in schools and settings across the region.

Building on this success, I have been developing a new programme to complement the existing training. This new strand focuses specifically on SEND within the military community, raising awareness of the additional layers of complexity and challenge that Service families with SEND experience. The training explores how tailored, inclusive strategies can better support the education and wellbeing of these children and young people.

Through targeted training and strategic activity, we can continue to enhance the quality of support provided to Service children and those 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.

Supporting our Service families remains a priority, and I look forward to building on this vital work in the year ahead.

Beccy



# SUPPORTING SERVICE FAMILIES: TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

## Objective

- Build awareness of the unique challenges military families face
- Strengthen support networks in schools
- Ensure staff feel confident and well-equipped to meet children's needs

## Analysis

Over the past two years, I have delivered a comprehensive training package of continuing professional development – 'Supporting Service Children & Young People' – aimed at supporting teachers and professionals who work with Service children and Young people.

## Impact

- 650+ PGCE secondary & primary students
- Teaching staff and professionals across York, North Yorkshire, and East Riding

★ Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the real impact this work is having across schools and settings.

## Ongoing Commitment

Supporting our Service families remains a key priority. Through targeted training, strategic activity, and continued development, we aim to ensure that every Service child—including those with SEND—feels understood, supported, and empowered to thrive.

## Supporting SEND in Military families

- Raising awareness of the additional layers of complexity faced by Service families with SEND
- Understanding how military life can affect access, stability, and support
- Providing inclusive, tailored strategies to support learning and wellbeing
- Ensuring support systems are responsive, informed, and able to meet evolving needs

## New Programme

A new training strand is currently in development to complement the existing programme. This new course focuses on:

**Supporting Service Children & Young People with SEND.**

# Updates



## SCiP Alliance Annual Conference 2025: Whole Person, Whole Journey

Back in December, the SCiP Alliance hosted its annual conference, Whole Person, Whole Journey., in Scotland.

A memorable moment from the opening session came from Wing Commander Andrea Dowds MBE, whose reflections on relocating with her own children and navigating life as part of a dual-serving family brought powerful lived experience to the room.

Across the day, participants selected from 11 varied workshops delivered by organisations and practitioners committed to improving outcomes for Service children. These hands-on sessions, shaped by the Whole Person, Whole Journey theme, equipped attendees with practical ideas, resources, and approaches they could take back into their own settings.

This year's conference stood out as a truly inspiring gathering, leaving delegates with renewed motivation, a stronger network, and a wealth of new learning to draw on.

Workshop slides are now available on the individual workshop pages [here](#).

# SCiP Alliance



Click here for more information



# Information

A woman with curly hair, wearing a yellow jacket and a colorful lanyard, is smiling with her eyes closed. The background is a blurred crowd of people.

*open now for*  
for registration

NEW COHORTS STARTING IN JANUARY

**WELLBEING  
PROGRAMME**

**RFS**

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

## Recruit for Spouses Upcoming Session

Wellbeing Programme:  
Expert-led support

Genuine peer connection  
Practical tools for mental  
wellness

Register now to secure your  
place or join the waiting list:  
[Register here](#)

A woman with long dark hair and glasses is looking down at her smartphone. The background is a blurred city street at night with bokeh lights.

Did you know...

You don't need a tech  
background to work in cyber

Free virtual webinar  
Tuesday 10th February 2026  
12.30 - 13.30 GMT

**RFS**

## Recruit for Spouses upcoming sessions

"Routes into the Industry" webinar.

Start 2026 with clarity, direction, and a solid plan  
for entering the National Cyber Force ecosystem.

What's included: → Complete training pathway  
overview → Application process demystified → Real  
opportunities for 2026 → Community and support  
networks.

Tuesday, 10th February 2026 | 12:30 PM | Final  
places: [Register here](#)



## Army and Overseas HIVE Information Centres – Sept 2025

**Army HIVE Social media:**

- <https://ArmyHIVEinfo.blogspot.com>
- <https://www.facebook.com/ArmyHIVE>
- <https://www.X.com/ArmyHIVEinfo>
- <https://www.instagram.com/ArmyHIVEinfo>

**Northern Ireland:**

- Aldershot, County Antrim: [AC-Pers.HIVE.NI.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.NI.HQ@mod.gov.uk)

**Scotland:**

- Leuchars, Fife: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Scotland.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Scotland.HQ@mod.gov.uk)

**Wales:**

- St Athan, South Glamorgan: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Wales.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Wales.HQ@mod.gov.uk)

**England - North (geographical area):**

- Catterick, North Yorkshire and wider North area: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Northern.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Northern.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Catterick Infantry Training Centre: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Catterick.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Catterick.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Leconfield, East Riding of Yorkshire: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Leconfield.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Leconfield.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Preston, Lancashire: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Preston.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Preston.HQ@mod.gov.uk)

**England - Central (geographical area):**

- Colchester, Essex and wider East area: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Colchester.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Colchester.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Grantham, Lincolnshire: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Grantham.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Grantham.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Hareford, Herefordshire: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Hareford.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Hareford.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Lichfield, Staffordshire and wider Central area: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Lichfield.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Lichfield.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Stafford, Staffordshire: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Stafford.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Stafford.HQ@mod.gov.uk)

**England - South (geographical area):**

- Aldershot, Hampshire and wider SE area including London District: [AC-Pers.HIVE.London.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.London.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Bovingdon, Dorset: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Bovingdon.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Bovingdon.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Colerne, Wiltshire: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Colerne.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Colerne.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Lynnhay, Wiltshire: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Lynnhay.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Lynnhay.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Tidworth, Wiltshire and wider SW area: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Tidworth.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Tidworth.HQ@mod.gov.uk)

**Overseas HIVEs:**

- Brunei: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Brunei.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Brunei.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Brussels, Netherlands: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Brussels.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Brussels.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Gibraltar: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Gibraltar.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Gibraltar.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Naples, Italy: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Naples.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Naples.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Sennelager, Germany: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Sennelager.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Sennelager.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- SHAPE, Belgium: [AC-Pers.HIVE.SHAPE.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.SHAPE.HQ@mod.gov.uk)

**Cyprus: Blog:** <https://cyprus.hive.blog/>

- Alexis: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Alexis.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Alexis.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Ayios Nikolaos: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Ayios.Nikolaos.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Ayios.Nikolaos.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Dhekelia: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Dhekelia.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Dhekelia.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Episkopi: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Episkopi.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Episkopi.HQ@mod.gov.uk)
- Nicosia: [AC-Pers.HIVE.Nicosia.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.Nicosia.HQ@mod.gov.uk)

Also International HIVE (IHIVE) covering all Overseas posting locations: [AC-Pers.HIVE.IHIVE.HQ@mod.gov.uk](mailto:AC-Pers.HIVE.IHIVE.HQ@mod.gov.uk)

Overseas HIVE Blog: <https://overseas.hive.blog/>

**Pinnacle Service Families**

Working with **Defence Infrastructure Organisation**

**COME IN, WE'RE OPEN**

**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**

Do you know where your nearest HIVE Hub is?

Click here to find out more:

[HIVE HUBS MAP](#)



## Top tips for the prevention of condensation, damp and mould

### Produce less moisture

Even everyday activities such as drying clothes and steam from cooking can produce a lot of moisture.



### Remove excess moisture

Wipe the windows and window sills of your home each morning to remove condensation.



### Heat your home

In cold weather, the best way to keep rooms warm and avoid condensation is to keep low background heat on all day



### Ventilate your home

It is important to remove condensation and excess moisture by ventilating rooms regularly.



## Service Family Accommodation (SFA)

Over the last few years we have made substantial progress in tackling damp and mould that has been reported.

If you discover damp and mould, including any recurring issues, please report it straight away so that we can resolve the issue promptly. You can do this in the following ways:

Complete the dedicated Damp and Mould report form on the Pinnacle website

<https://www.pinnacleservicefamilies.co.uk/damp-mould.../>

Call Pinnacle on 0800 0318628, selecting option 1, then option 4.

Chat to Pinnacle online, you can do this by selecting the chat option on Pinnacle website.

# What's on...



**ARMY WELFARE SERVICE**

**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

• Strensall: Hurst Hall Community Centre, Border Road YO32 5SR

Scan the QR code to register children for sessions.

**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.

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**

**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

2021

**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 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.



# Service Families' Liaison Officer



## A message from me...

Happy New Year to all our Service children and their families!

Welcome back to school. I hope you all had a lovely time over the Christmas break and are ready to hit the ground running this term!

As we begin a new year, I want to take a moment to recognise the unique challenges that can come with being part of a Service family—whether that means moving schools, adjusting to new routines, or spending time apart from loved ones.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such supportive schools, and I would like to sincerely thank them for the care and understanding they show to Service children and their families. Their dedication to creating a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environments makes a real difference. It helps ensure that Service children feel understood, valued, and able to thrive, no matter the circumstances. Thank you for the important role you play and for the continued support you provide to our Service community.

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.

Wishing you a happy, positive, and successful year ahead!

Happy New Year!

Beccy

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Supporters

