

Middle East situation

Over the past few days, there has been increased news and social media coverage about the situation in the Middle East.

We know that when there is a lot of media attention on world events, children can sometimes hear or see things that feel worrying or confusing. They may not always understand where events are happening or how they relate to their own family circumstances, especially if a parent is deployed or away for work.

If your child has questions or seems unsettled, a calm, simple conversation and gentle reassurance can go a long way. Letting them know they are safe and that it's okay to ask questions can be incredibly comforting.

Please remember that support is available if you need it. We are here for you and your family.



Service Families' Newsletter

March 2026



AI Skills for Military Partners Programme

BFBS Officially Launches First-Ever AI Skills Course Exclusively for Military Partners

BFBS (British Forces Broadcasting Service) has officially launched its *AI Skills For Military Partners* programme, an innovative course designed to help military partners build practical digital skills, expand career opportunities, and strengthen employability in a fast-changing, tech-driven world.

The programme, delivered through **BFBS Academy**, blends self-paced online learning with monthly live evening webinars and four one-off in-person workshops to be held in Cyprus, Catterick, Blandford, and Edinburgh. Fully funded by a £66,884 grant from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, the programme is tailored specifically for the needs of the armed forces community.

The course will enable participants to:

- Build foundational AI skills relevant for real-world applications
- Understand how AI tools can enhance work or business growth
- Learn at their own pace with flexible online options, supported by live webinars and workshops
- Navigate AI responsibly and confidently

Click here for more information



Calling all teenagers!

SQUAD by Little Troopers - Series 2

What is SQUAD?



SQUAD 2 offers the opportunity to listen to accounts from adults of how growing in a military family has shaped their careers and lives, lessons they have learnt along the way and what they wish they knew as teenagers..

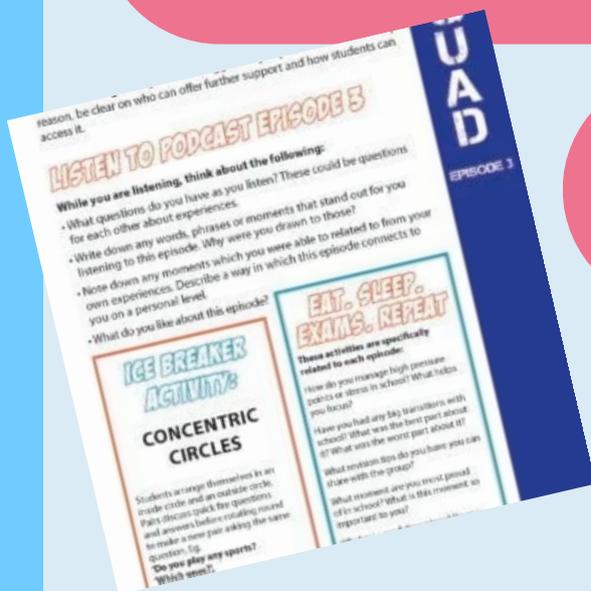
[Click here and listen now](#)

[Download activity sheets](#)

Expert View

SQUAD isn't just useful for military teens, it also gives an invaluable insight into being a military teenager for both parents and teachers.

[Listen to expert view podcasts](#)

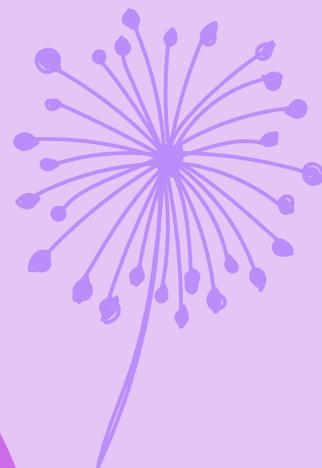


Coming soon!

Month of the Military Child

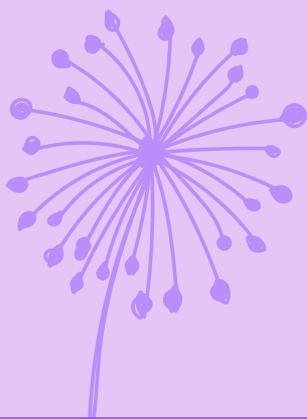


Will you
'Purple Up'
for
MOTMC?



Celebrating Service children & young people

April is designated as Month of the Military Child (MotMC). It is a campaign to raise awareness about the important role children play in the Armed Forces community and a time to recognise Armed Forces families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome.



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

BE

PART

OF

OUR

COMMUNITY

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

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.

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

Please call 01904 555475 if you would like support with:

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

Army Welfare Service: Easter Holiday Provision for Children & Young People



Easter Fun Day including a trip to Flip Out Leeds *
Tuesday, 31 March 9.55am-4.00pm *
£14.45 per participant including free trampoline socks

AWS has organised a trip to Flip Out Leeds (2 hour experience) which has a trampoline park, inflatables, Ninja playground, slide world plus many other activities – please see www.flipout.co.uk/locations/leeds for more details. Please note that some attractions have a minimum height restriction of 1.1m. The trip is open to children and young people of primary and secondary school ages.

The trip is in the morning and the afternoon (optional) fun session (2-4pm) will be held in the community centre.

Travel will be by minibus and participants need to bring a packed lunch or money to buy lunch.

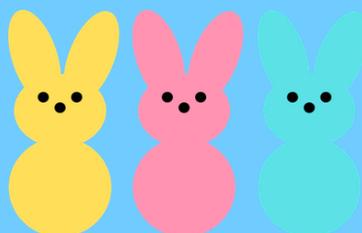
Places can be booked and paid for (cash only please) at next week's Junior and Senior Youth Clubs between 4.30pm - 8.30pm held at Hurst Hall Community Centre, Border Road, Strensall.



For more information
contact...



Michael Bailey,
Community Development
Worker, Army Welfare
Service
Email:
michael.bailey124@mod.gov.uk





Easter

Family Fun Session

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Easter Arts & Crafts
- Egg and Spoon Race
- Bunny Hop Race
- Bubble Play
- Decorating Easter Cupcakes
- Easter Sensory Play for Under 5s
- Refreshments

Booking is essential – please scan the QR Code or click on the link below to book a place for child(ren).

Please note that children must be accompanied by a parent/carer who will be responsible for supervising them.

Sunday, 29th March 2026

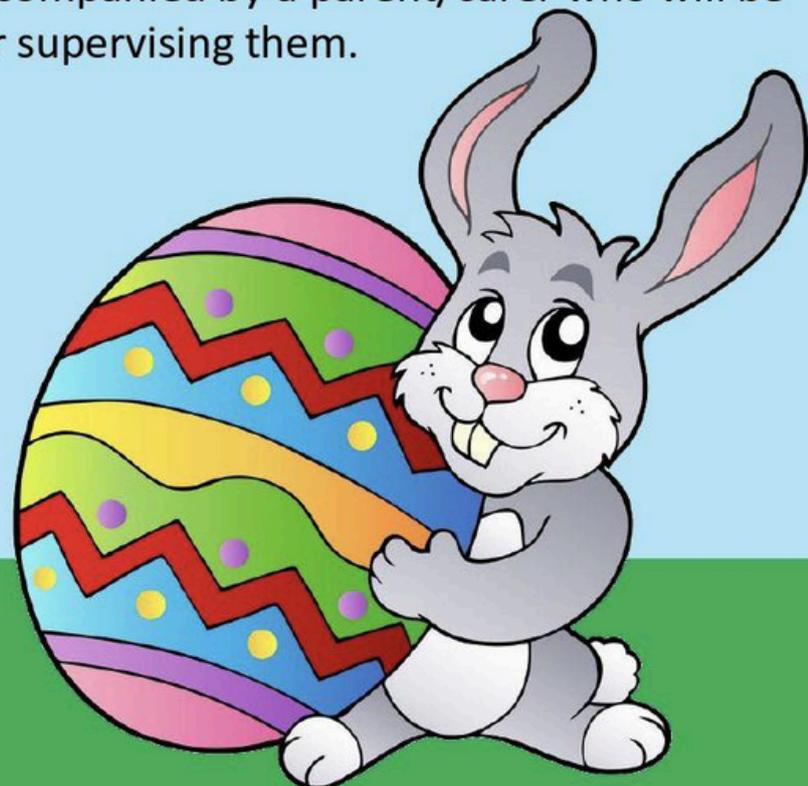
Strensall: 10.00am-11.30am

or

Fulford: 2.00pm-3.30pm

£2 per child

Please pay at session.



For more information, please contact:
michael.bailey124@mod.gov.uk Tel 077 6700 8982



Drop in clinics in York

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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>

Information & Updates



Out and about!

Updated local information leaflets for 2026 are now available. These leaflets are located in the main foyer of the community centre.

Come and have a look at what's on offer!



Discounted Attraction Passes Available!

Piglets Adventure Farm

Passes won't be available until early March.
More details will be shared once they're released.

Flamingo Land

(8 passes available)
Book via 2 Med

Winter passes: £2.50. Only the zoo and play parks are open during the winter. Please see dates below.
Summer passes: £5

Winter opening dates:

- 14-22 February
- 25 February – 1 March
- Weekend of 7 March
- Weekend of 14 March

Dalby Forest

Book via 2 Med
£5 per pass (normally £15)
1 vehicle per pass (up to 7 people)

Dalby Forest and Flamingo Land passes can only be booked by serving personnel or civilians with SharePoint access. Booking details are available on Part One Orders.

ssafa

— the —
Armed Forces
charity

Bringing families together
for more than ten years:

SSAFA Short Breaks applications open for
2026

SSAFA's Short Break scheme offers a safe
and inclusive time away for serving - and
reservist - families who have a child with an
additional need or disability, whether these
are physical, behavioural, emotional, mental
health or a combination of the above.



SSAFA SHORT BREAKS 2026

Short Breaks for Forces families who have a child
with an additional need and/or disability.

8 - 10 May 2026

Calvert Lakes, Lake District

20 - 24 July 2026

Calvert Lakes, Lake District

3 - 7 August 2026

Calvert Devon, Exmoor

26 - 30 October 2026

Calvert Devon, Exmoor

ssafa

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Armed Forces
charity



SERVICE FAMILIES LIAISON OFFICER

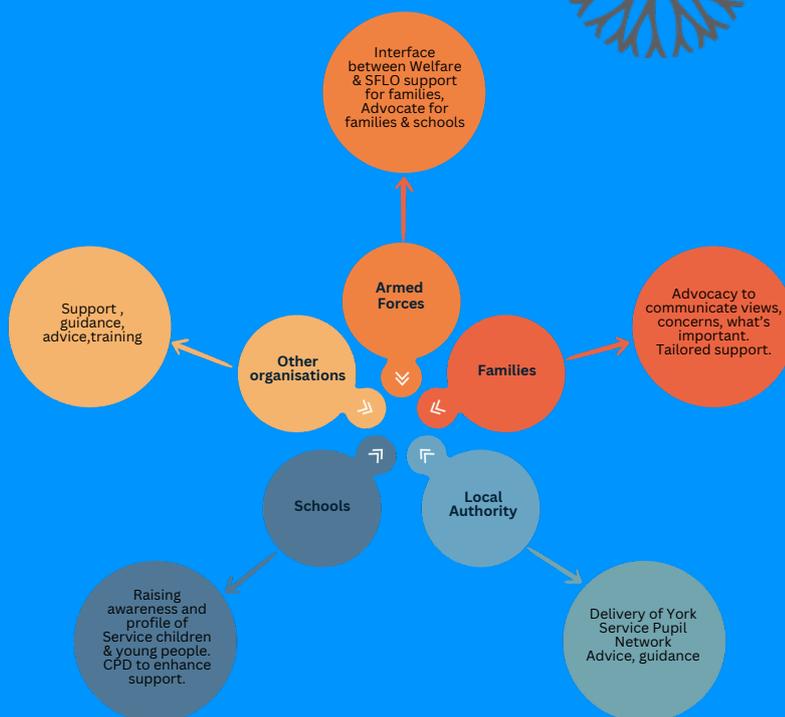
Supporting the Armed Forces



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



07895 202551



r.dixon@ebor.academy



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

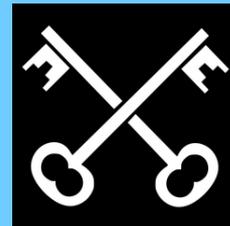
21MMR-RHQ-WELFARE-OFFR@MOD.GOV.UK

WO2 Nikki Robson

Email: 21MMR-RHQ-WELFARE-0MAILBOX@MOD.GOV.UK
Tel: 01904 442989

(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

UWO
Capt Mark Davies

WO2 Carl White

2sig-spsqn-welfare-groupmailbox@mod.gov.uk
Civ: 01904 651572 | Welfare Mob : 07973817562



01264 554004



contact@aff.org.uk



www.aff.org.uk



Beccy Dixon
Service Families Liaison
Officer



07895 202551



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Service Families' Liaison Officer



A message from me...

Hello everyone!

The Easter holidays will soon be here! I can't quite believe it!

I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank all of our Service families.

Life in the Armed Forces is built around commitment — to duty, to country, and to one another. But that commitment is not carried by the serving person alone. It is shared by families: husbands, wives, partners, children and extended family members who adapt, support and stand strong through postings, deployments, exercises and the unpredictability that Service life can bring.

For some families, the end of this term and over the Easter holidays may bring change — upcoming moves, time apart, or new routines. For others, it may simply be another month of balancing family life around Service commitments. Whatever this month looks like for you, please know that your contribution does not go unnoticed. If you need support, please get in touch or speak to your school or military welfare unit.

A special message to our Service children and young people:

Your flexibility, courage and strength matter. The moves, the goodbyes, the new beginnings — they shape you, but they do not define you.

As a community, we remain committed to:

- Listening to the voices of Service children
- Supporting families through transition and deployment
- Ensuring understanding among staff and peers
- Celebrating the strengths that Service life nurtures

If you need support, guidance, or simply someone to talk to, please reach out. We are here — not just during awareness months, but all year round.

 07895 202551

 r.dixon@ebor.academy

Beccy



Supporters

