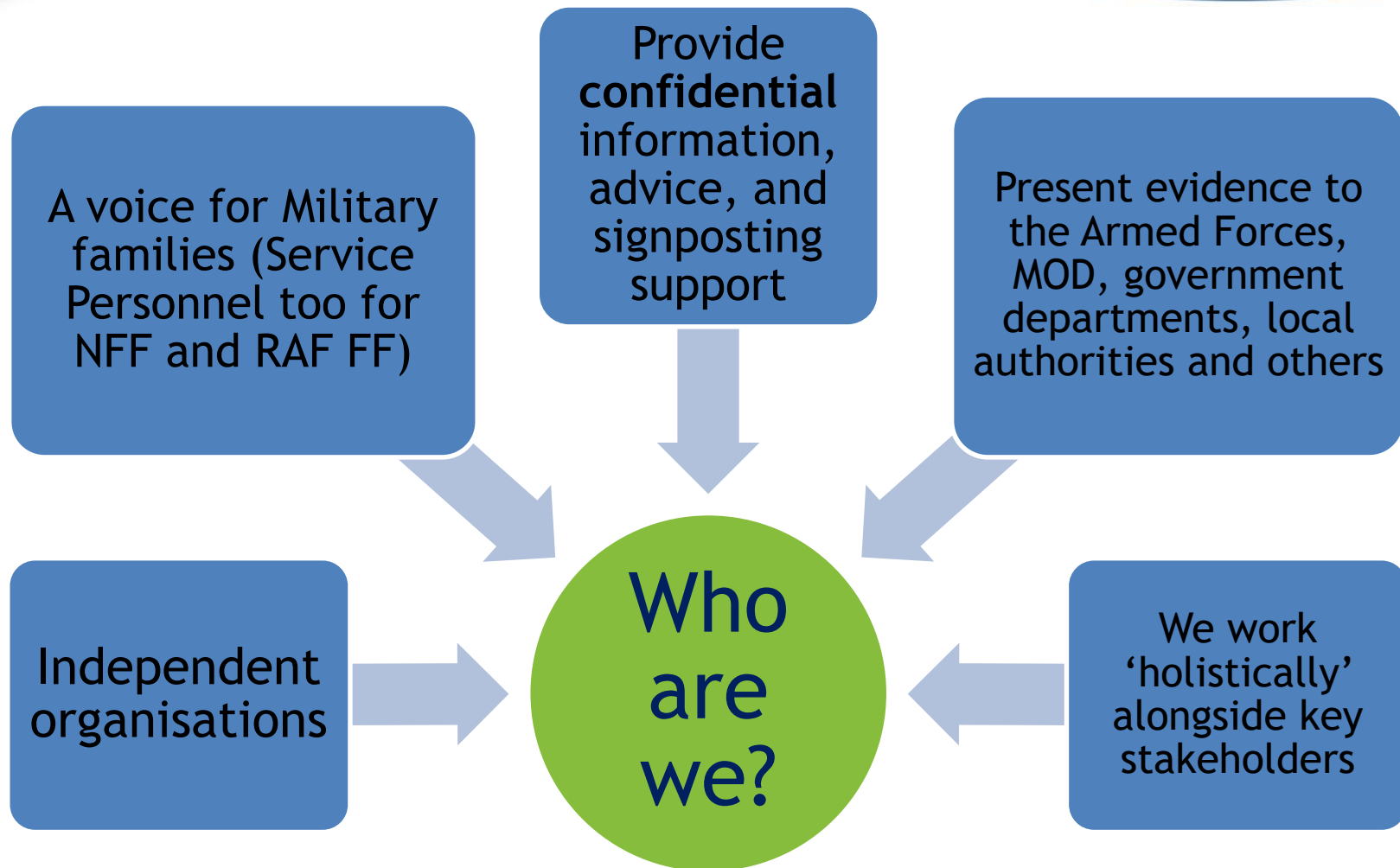


# The Educational Experiences of Service Children: Mobility, Separation and Deployment

What do you consider are the challenges and opportunities Service children may encounter in education?



# What is unique about Armed Forces family life?

## **The notion of 'Service First'**

'Service comes first' is a principle that affects the whole family's life, not just the Service person.

## **Mobility**

Some can move houses as much as every 18 months/2 years, some every 5 years or so, others settle in one place whilst a Serving person moves around for work

## **Deployment**

Non-operational and operational deployments, in the UK or overseas, can vary in length and frequency. Some will be often for a few weeks/a month, others for 4-6 months every couple of years. Some may even be 9 months or longer.

**Separation** takes different forms. Can be from training, living apart, and/or deployment and will hence vary in length and frequency.

# How are Families Supported? By whom?

## Families Federations

Each Service has its own Families Federation that acts as an independent voice for families and offers support and advice.

## Devolved Nations Support

- Forces Children Scotland
- Forces Children Education
- Supporting Service Children in Education (SSCE) Cymru

## Military Charities

Over 187 offer support including The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, The Army Benevolent Fund, RAF Benevolent Fund and Royal Air Forces Association, Royal British Legion and SSAFA

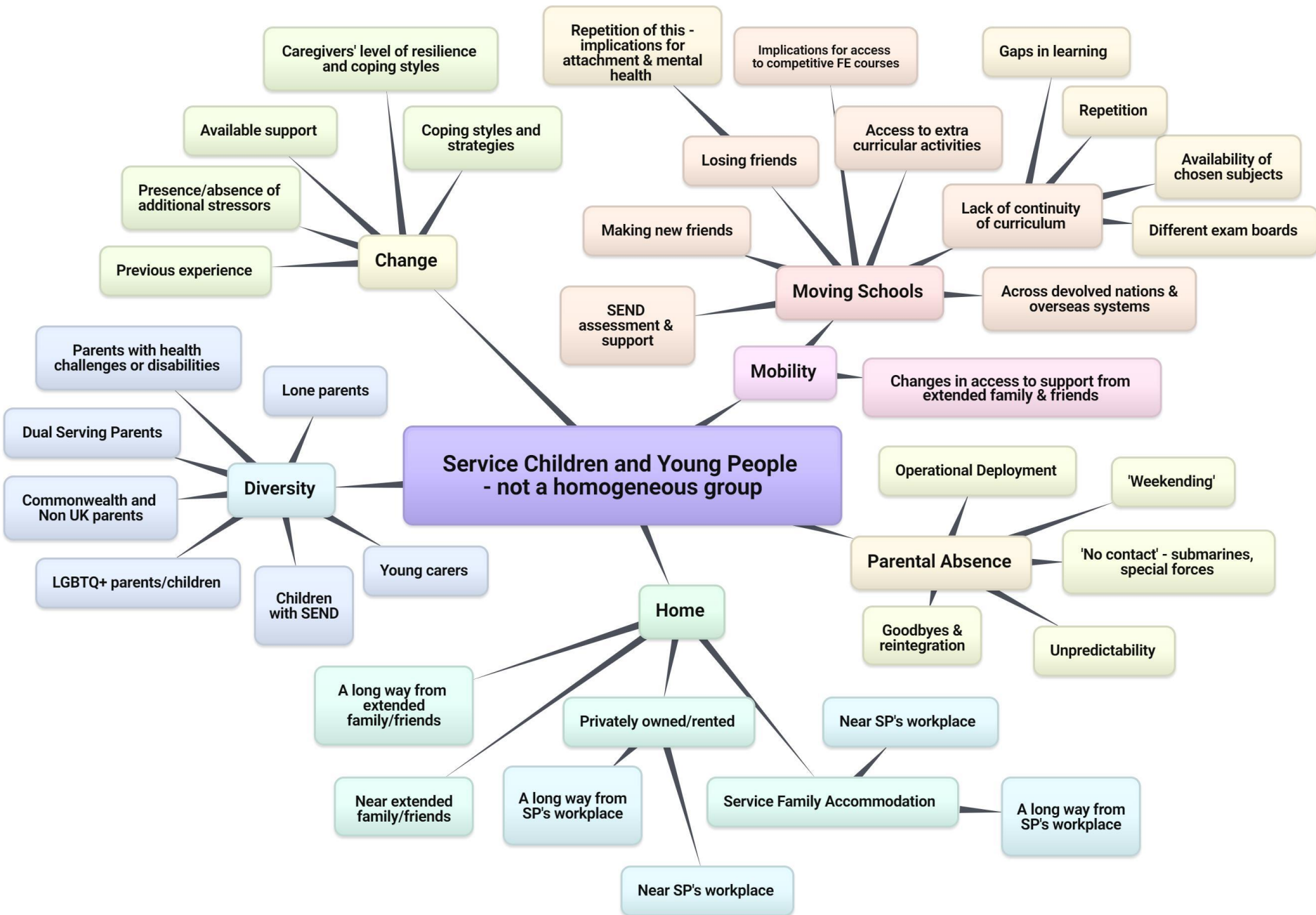
## Service Family

### Service Family support

- MOD (Armed Forces Families and Safeguarding & Defence Children Services)
- Royal Navy Family and People Support (RNFPS)
- Army Welfare Support
- RAF Community Support (social work through SSAFA)

### Networks in the UK

- Service Children's Progression Alliance
- Service Children in State Schools (England only)
- Veterans and Family Research Hub, Anglia Ruskin Uni



# What are the positives of Service family life?

**Quality of life:** 69% of military spouses are satisfied with their quality of life being married to a member of the Armed Forces (FAMCAS 2021).

**Different cultures & backgrounds:**

- New and diverse friendships from different cultures and backgrounds
- Resilience
- Confidence
- Tolerance

**Community:**

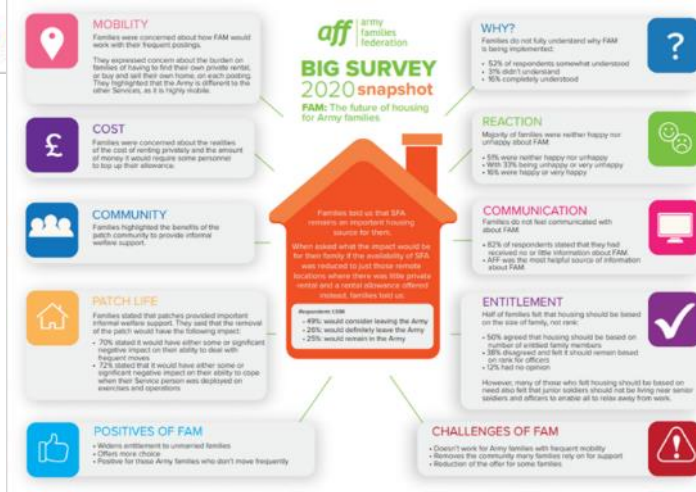
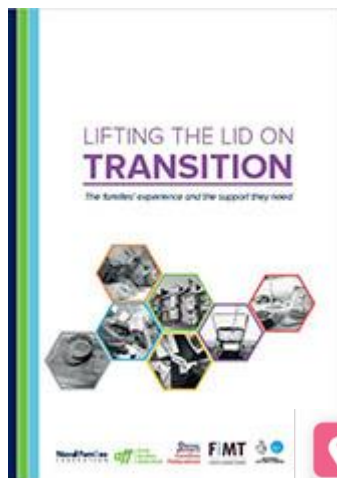
- Opportunity to make new friends
- Live nearby other families and children who may have similar experiences

**Development of skills:**

- Independence
- Maturity
- Flexibility
- Awareness of civic duty that service children may develop due to separation.



# Surveys, Polls and Reports



## How can we help?



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