

Tried and Tested: access and outreach activities for Service children

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Creative Forces Day



KNOW | CHOOSE | BECOME | PRACTISE | UNDERSTAND

What?

A Creative Forces day gives HE providers an opportunity to bring Service children from a variety of schools together to experience a day on a university campus and explore their identity as Service children. It is also an opportunity to build the capacity of schools to understand and support their Service children.



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Why?

- Develops aspirations for and awareness of higher education opportunities
- Creates opportunities for reflection on life as a service child
- Builds stronger relationships between service children and their peers
- CPD for staff on effective support for service children
- Service children's 'top tips' for staff on how to support them effectively



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Identifying the cohort

- Decide who you want to work with e.g.. primary, secondary, year groups etc.
- Identify how many students live in your geographical area and where they are studying.
- Advertise to schools through the LA's school improvement team and/or direct approach to schools near local armed forces facilities.



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Activity

10am	Arrival, registration and refreshments
10:15am	Welcome talk - <i>Louisa Dobson</i>
10:30am	What is HE? - <i>Emma Thomason and Heather Cooper</i>
11:15am	Supporting Service Children Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creative Collage 'Top Tips'• Effective practice workshop
12:30pm	Lunch
1:15pm	Campus Tour
1:45pm	Evaluation and close
2pm	Coach departs

Do you come from a military service background?

If you understand the issues military families face, could you inspire and support local military service children?

We are running a 'Creative Forces' day for local military service children and their teachers on 20th April 2018, 10am - 2pm at York St John University.

We would like as many of our students who are from this background themselves to join us on this day, to make a difference to the lives of children both locally and nationally and share their own experiences with secondary school aged pupils.

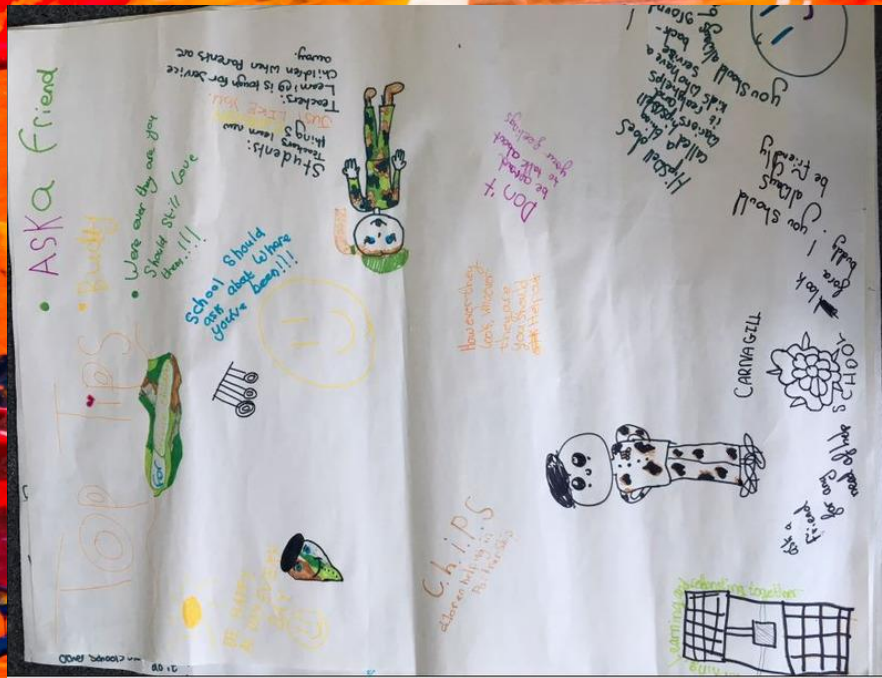
Please get in touch if you would like to get involved.



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Top Tips



YOUR TOP TIPS!

Do you like to talk about your military connection or do you find it difficult?

Do you choose to spend time with other children from military service families? Does it help you?

Would you like more opportunity to meet other children from military service families?

How could schools help when you move?

How do you feel when your parent is deployed?

How could schools help and encourage you?

What does your school do that others should be doing?

TIPS:

You could start by writing some of your answers on this sheet first then find creative ways to put them on your collage.

Feel free to cut out the questions and stick them onto your collage.

If you can't think of what to say, use the books and magazines and cut out pictures and words that describe how you feel.

**SUPPORT
ADVICE
MOBILITY TALK
DEPLOYMENT
ACTIVITIES
FRIENDS
UNDERSTANDING
TEACHERS
CLASSMATES**



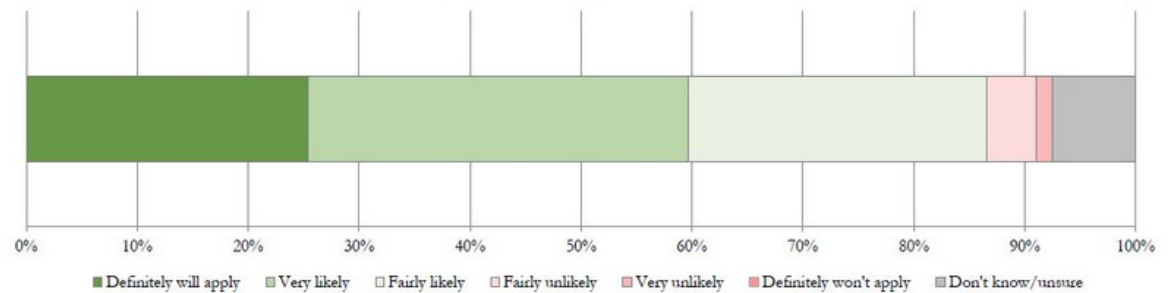
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Evaluation

What do you feel you have learned from today?

Word cloud containing terms related to learning and education, including: education, university, learn, course, future, time, thing, study, work, life, uni, club, fact, student, people, offer, financial, many, subject, opportunity, campus, maintenance, and others.

How likely are you to apply to Higher Education?



How likely are you to apply to Higher Education?

Definitely will apply
Very likely
Fairly likely
Fairly unlikely
Very unlikely
Definitely won't apply
Don't know/unsure

Has this Creative Forces Day in any way affected your decision?

Yes No

Please state the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

Statement	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know/unsure
I feel more knowledgeable about Higher Education as a result of this event.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel that Higher Education is for people like me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I could get the grades I need for further study	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

"The amazing, relatable people! Meeting more military service children"

"I am smarter than I thought"

"What life is like at uni and how to manage everything thrown at me."



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Creating a plan of action

- Identify and connect with your students from Service families
- Inclusion in outreach targeting
- Join your local SCiP Alliance Hub
- Check your institution is signed up to the Armed Forces Cove
- Form partnerships with military community and county council
- Collaborate with other local HE institutions/local NCOPs



Discussion

- What are the opportunities for you to support Service children in thinking about their progression and future goals?
- What are the barriers?
- What already happens well?
- What would you like to see more of?



FESTIVAL OF FRIENDS



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Hampshire
County Council



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The context of the project:

- 6075 children from military families, making up 3.5% of Hampshire's school population.
- Creative Forces events hosted by the University, in partnership with Hampshire County Council, since 2014 to support awareness of higher education.
- Some schools working to improve peer support and integration of Service children and families but often in isolation.



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An opportunity to develop understanding and awareness of service life:

- “Have the chance to explain to other children what it is like/ where they’re from”
- “Combine to create a military day at school”
- “Have assemblies based on military so we are understood”
- “Have military personnel talking about their experience to the entire school”
- “Let us show the class and school what we do”
- “Leaders do an assembly where we could stand up and tell civilians what it is like”
- “Awareness days about being in the forces”
- “More talks about the army, navy etc. Not a lot of people know what it is or how it is”



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The Festival of Friends model:

A network of district groups, led by a co-ordinator to engage schools with Service children populations

An awards scheme to encourage schools to develop projects and initiatives to support the integration of Service children and families

A celebration event to recognise and raise the profile of examples of effective practice that support integration of Service children



**ARMED FORCES
COVENANT
FUND TRUST**



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Aims of the project:

- To establish strong connections between schools in the county and to address the needs identified by Service children, focusing on integration in particular.
- Raise the profile of and celebrate excellent work going on between schools and families that promote a positive view of the Armed Forces and service families.
- To pilot a new model for bringing together key stakeholders to support the integration and progression of service children that could be shared on a local and national basis.



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District Service Pupils Network Co-ordinators

HIAS District	Number/% of Service Children (2017)	Position of Co-ordinator(s) at school
East Hants	195/ 1.6%	Headteacher
Fareham	941/ 6%	Headteacher
Gosport	1091/ 10.1%	Pupil Premium Champion Armed Forces Link Worker
Hart	637/ 4.6%	Deputy Headteacher
Havant	399/ 2.2%	Headteacher
New Forest	356/ 1.7%	Deputy Headteacher
Rushmoor	1193/ 10.7%	Student Support Officer
Test Valley Basingstoke & Deane	779/ 5% 129/ 0.6%	Headteacher
Winchester Eastleigh	400/ 2.7% 100/ 0.6%	Headteacher
Isle of Wight	82/ 0.5%	Headteacher

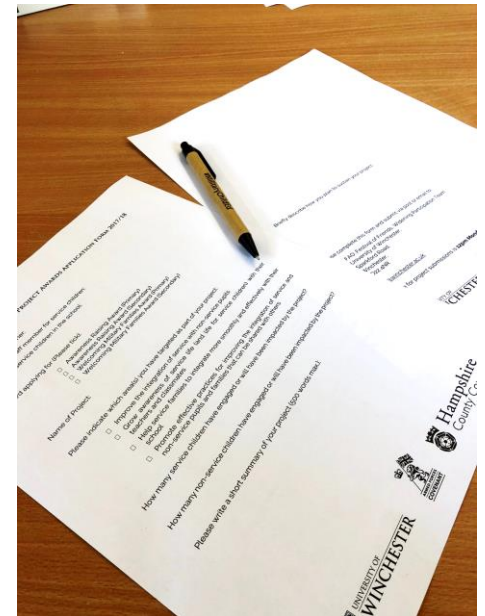
- Led by Hampshire County Council
- 10 Districts established across Hampshire and the IoW, led by local co-ordinators
- Over 70 schools engaged at some point
- 21 District Group meetings held between Summer 2017 and Spring 2018, in addition to other means of engaging schools utilised by co-ordinators.



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The Festival of Friends Awards scheme:

- Two categories of award: Awareness Raising and Welcoming Military Families (separate categories for primary and secondary)
- Modest number of submissions, but a high level of quality and diversity was noted by the judges.
- Across the submissions, estimated that over 1000 students have been impacted by the projects



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Festival of Friends Celebration



- Hosted at the UoW in April 2018
- Attending students given the opportunity to explore campus and take part in mini taster sessions
- Projects exhibited in a Project Showcase, alongside stands from other organisations



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Toolkit and sharing of our model:

- 'How to' guides for the establishment of a district network, an awards scheme and a celebration event.
- Includes case studies from submitted projects including insights and suggestions from organisers for schools looking to run similar initiatives.

Any 'top tips' for anyone looking to run a similar project in school?

- Ensure that you have good communication with parents so that they give you enough warning of deployment dates – this gives time for the dolls to be knitted.
- Try and personalise the dolls if possible with the right service for the parent and the right colour uniform for the children, including hair colour and style. It makes it more personal. (We don't do different 'ranks' though).
- Take lots of photos as a record!
- Ask parents to send photos for display and for feedback – this helps measure the impact of the project.



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Success of the project

- The piloting of a new model for collaborative working between a HE provider, a local authority and schools.
- The links forged between schools, the local authority and UoW through the District Service Pupils Network and the subsequent sharing of effective practice and opportunities to support Service children.
- The sharing of our experiences and the case studies submitted by schools to the FoF Awards nationally.



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Looking forward:

- Schools who received prizes are using their funds to develop their projects and support for integrating Service children.
- The Service Pupils District Groups are continuing beyond the end of funding and looking at ways of engaging more schools across Hampshire and the IoW.
- UoW Access and Outreach team working with District Coordinators to gauge the interest in engaging with another awards scheme and exploring other opportunities to engage the Armed Forces community.



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