

Service Children's Progression



UNIVERSITY OF
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Creative Forces: a resources pack for HE providers

THE SCIP ALLIANCE
THRIVING LIVES FOR SERVICE CHILDREN

Led by



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What is Creative Forces?

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.

The rationale for working with children whose parent or carer works or has worked in the armed forces

Research from University of Winchester suggests that Service children have particular experiences and characteristics that may be contributory factors affecting access to higher education. Many Service families repeatedly experience the impact of separation and deployment, high mobility and an increased risk of other factors such as caring responsibilities. According to the Office For Students, “these issues may persist into the higher education experience, so providers may wish to consider the support they have in place to support students in this group. It may also be useful to reflect on how you could work with the wider community to track and inform this population”.

This resource pack

The University of Winchester has run this programme since 2014 and NCOP Higher York, based at York St John University, used and developed the model in 2018. This pack presents the experiences and ideas of outreach professionals from these institutions and shares the resources they used to organise and run the events.

Contents

Identifying schools and HE students.....	p4-5
The day's activities.....	p6-7
Managing your HE students.....	p8
The Top Tips session.....	p9
Advice from experienced professionals.....	p10
A follow up activity.....	p11
An invitation to be part of the national evaluation	

[Back page](#)



CREATIVE FORCES

For pupils from military service families in Hampshire

5th June – Secondary, 9:45-14:30

7th June – Primary, 9:45-14:30

Opportunities for pupils:

- Visit a university campus, share experiences with current students and talk to lots of other people from service families.
- Give Hampshire's teachers your top tips for supporting service children.

Opportunities for teachers:

- CPD session focused on supporting service children.
- Networking and sharing experiences with other professionals who support service children.

Email lauren.smith-birch@winchester.ac.uk for more information on the application process.



Advertise to schools through the LA's school improvement team and direct approach to schools near local armed forces facilities.

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.



Reach out to your own university students from Service families

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





CREATIVE FORCES 2018

The University of Winchester will be hosting Creative Forces days for primary and secondary pupils from service family backgrounds on 5th June (secondary pupils) and 7th June (primary pupils).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUPILS:

- Visit a university campus, share experiences with current students and talk to lots of other people from service families.
- Give Hampshire's teachers your 'top tips' for supporting service children.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAFF:

- CPD session focused on supporting service children.
- Networking and sharing experiences with other professionals who support service children.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Pupils should be from a service family background and should not have attended one of our previous Creative Forces events. Places are limited and will be issued on a first come, first served basis. We would ask each school to invite up to four pupils and one member of staff to attend.

Application forms are available for parents of pupils to complete and schools must return these to the University to secure places. An accompanying staff form will also need to be returned ahead of the event.

If there are any questions about the application process or anything about the days, please contact:

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The University of Winchester
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Creative Forces Day

Friday 20th April 2018

10am	Arrival, registration and refreshments	Arts Foyer
10:15am	Welcome talk - <i>Louisa Dobson</i>	QS Hall
10:30am	What is HE? - <i>Emma Thomason and Heather Cooper</i>	QS Hall
11:15am	Supporting Service Children Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creative Collage 'Top Tips'• Effective practice workshop	QS Hall CD103
12:30pm	Lunch	SU Bar
1:15pm	Campus Tour	
1:45pm	Evaluation and close	QS Hall
2pm	Coach departs	

KNOW | BECOME | CHOOSE | UNDERSTAND | PRACTICE



CREATIVE FORCES 2018

PRIMARY – 7TH JUNE

Programme:

Timings:	Activity:	Location:
9:45	Arrivals and registrations	The Stripe Foyer
10:00	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief Welcome talk by University staff 	Stripe Auditorium
10:10	Sharing experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session with current University students from military service families, including the opportunity for a Q&A 	SS1 SS2
10:40	Refreshments break	SS1 SS2
10:50	Journalism taster session	SAB 201
	Campus tour	Starting in SS1
11:35	Journalism taster session	SAB 201
	Campus tour	Starting from SAB 201
12:20	Lunch	The Vault
12:50	Supporting Service Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Top Tips</i> – Pupils to work with ambassadors to generate ideas for how schools can support them better CPD session for school staff delivered by the RAF-FF 	'Top Tips' – SS1 and SS2 CPD session – Stripe Auditorium
13:40	Feedback from pupils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils feedback on their 'Top Tips' to school staff 	SS1 and SS2
14:15	Close and evaluation	Stripe Auditorium
14:30	Departures	Stripe Foyer



Student Ambassador Briefing Sheet Creative Forces Day

Outline:

The aim of the day is to provide a taster of HE for your pupils, and will also give them an opportunity to get to know service children from their own and other schools. We hope that by attending this event, pupils will gain more knowledge of what university is, and have had the chance to talk about their experience of being a service child within their community/school and how they can feel more supported and/or how they want to be treated.

Summary:

Event title:	Creative Forces Day	
Department:	NCOP	
Date:	20th April 2018	
SA start time		
Event start time		
Event finish time		
SA finish time		
SA Meeting Point		
Lunch Provided?	Yes	NB: Let me know if you have any dietary requirements
Contact during shift		
Ambassadors:		



KNOW | BECOME | CHOOSE | UNDERSTAND | PRACTICE



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

Organising a Creative Forces event for Service children in your region: tips from WP officers

- In North Yorkshire we had support from the county's Service Pupil Champions; this was crucial in getting the message to the right person in schools
- In Hampshire we worked through the County Council's District Coordinator Network, established in a Covenant Grant project with the University of Winchester
- Involvement of Ambassadors from a Service background was key but we also found it valuable to have Ambassadors from a variety of backgrounds so that pupils could see that anyone can go to university, regardless of their background, and can gain an understanding of how diverse and inclusive university is.
- We plan to add more structure next year to how the primary school groups present their thoughts back to the rest of the groups and the teachers
- The CPD was well received by the teachers but there was quite a broad range of experience amongst participants. It might be worth being more specific in our letters to schools about who we recommend attends with the pupils
- Invite students from a range of schools – one of the biggest positives for the students was meeting other Service children who go to different schools.
- We had a mix of Year 9 and 10 at the secondary school event but it might be easier just to work with one year group to ensure the HE activities are well targeted.
- During the top tips have as few university and school staff members in the room as possible; let the student ambassadors lead the activity. We found this enabled the students to be more honest about their experiences.
- Include opportunities for Service children to mix with different schools and share their experiences. This could be during group sessions or on the campus visit.
- Subject taster sessions can be an indirect opportunity for Service children to share their experiences, allowing openings for discussion and creative expression of ideas, whilst also experiencing what studying within higher education could be like. In previous years, we have offered creative writing and journalism taster sessions.
- When feeding back about their 'top tips' during the larger primary schools day, we split the schools into two groups to ensure that everyone was able to present their ideas to teaching staff whilst maintaining the pace of the day.
- Our secondary events were offered to students from Year 7 - 11. Messages about HE have to be carefully considered to ensure that the day is inclusive but this does give schools flexibility to include mobile students or to attend despite having a small Service child population.



Creative Forces Day – student follow up session

1. Welcome and aims of the session
 - a. Briefly explain that this is a follow up to the creative forces day they attended and tell them what they will be doing during the session
2. Ice-breaker
 - a. Do a quick 10 – 15 minute game/activity to get the students engaged. At the creative forces day they did a session on 'what is HE' so you could do something around this.
Some examples below:
 - i. 2 truths, 1 lie
 - ii. "What is the first word you think of when you think of HE"
3. Brainstorming
 - a. Ask students to come up with their ideas for what they might want the poster/flyer to look like.
 - b. Explain that as there is more than one school involved explain that their design will be one side of the poster. (Each school has a different theme, so there won't be any crossover.
 - c. Show them some examples of posters/flyers, templates, pictures from pexels etc.. to get the conversation started.
 - d. Things they might want to consider are:
 - i. Colour scheme – lots of colour/plain/block etc..
 - ii. Real photos or drawings – do they want to be in it? If so get a teacher to take the photos and get permission to use them. IF someone is a good artist could they create something
 - iii. What layout do they want?
 - iv. Do they want to write a title/sub headings etc..?
 - v. Students at Richmond can also be shown what SFX have designed.
 - e. Get the students to write down the final plan on some A4 paper.
4. Activity
 - a. Explain that they will be using the collages they made on 20th April and the posters made on the Primary School day.
 - b. Students can work in groups, pairs or together.
 - c. Using the post it notes students will pick out the best quotes/phrases from the collages that they want to use for their poster/flyer. They can also come up with their own.
 - d. Each school will be working on a different theme:
 - i. Issues that are important to them – St Francis Xavier
 - ii. Top Tips from Armed Forces Pupils – Richmond School
 - e. When they've chosen their quotes they might need to then whittle it down again which they should do as a group. Eg. Taking out duplicates.
5. Design outline

An invitation:

The SCiP Alliance practice group is running a national evaluation of Creative Forces events in the academic year 2018-19. Participating HEIs will be asked to include some core metrics in their own evaluation and to share their event evaluation report with the research team to inform the final report about what works and why. The evaluation team, led by NCOP Higher York, will produce a report and updated pack ready for partners to build on for their outreach programme the following year.

To be part of the evaluation or if you have any questions about the evaluation or the events themselves please contact the Alliance manager:

katherine.lawrence@winchester.ac.uk

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 www.scipalliance.org

Get involved and make a
difference to the children
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