

Directorate for Children
and
Young People
(DCYP)

October 2017 briefing

Better Defence Estate Strategy

- aims to support military capability by providing a smaller but better estate for the armed forces and their families out to 2040 and beyond
- detailed, long term plan to reduce the defence built estate by 30%
- provides a framework for the geographical lay down of our forces in the UK for at least a generation.
- has been developed in partnership with military leaders
- sets out where investment will be concentrated, and
- where sites will be sold to deliver a significantly smaller estate which is more efficient and better enables military capability.

For more information regarding the strategy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-defence-estate-strategy>

Final stages of drawdown of armed forces from Germany

- continuing to work closely with armed forces, DfE and local authorities
- to ensure LAs and schools are given as much notice as possible if the final drawdown from Germany in 2019 will result in any major net increases or decreases in the number of Service children in a given area.

Service Children in State Schools (SCISS)

- The MoD continues to work closely with and fully supports SCISS, valuing the work they have achieved and their plans for the future.
- We see SCISS as an integral part of the support network for schools, local authorities and Service families and continue to welcome their input into future plans and policy.

Links with the Department for Education (DfE)

- Developing strong relationships with the Department for Education. Efforts are focussed upon School Admissions, SEND Code of Practice, Service Pupil Premium, effective transfer of pupil data and Drawdown 2019/rebasing.
- Schools may have noticed that the Service child 'flag' is now part of the Common Transfer File (CTF). Previously the Service flag dropped off when a child changed school.
- Other Service specific enhancements to the CTF are hoped to be in place for September 2018.

Service Pupil Premium

- The recent publication of *Service Pupil Premium – Examples of Best Practice* was in response to requests from schools, governing bodies and local authorities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-service-pupil-premium>

- Working with the Families Federations and the DfE in relation to exploring the options around the possibility of extending the Service Pupil Premium into Early Years.

The Education Support Fund

- last round of funding has been allocated, running through the financial year of 2017/18
- no ESF funding from this point onwards
- however, DCYP will be bidding to extend the funding.

Winchester University

- Developing a national hub for Service children based research which will help collate, guide and focus past, present and future research around the effects of mobility and deployment on the education pathways/decisions of Service children.
- The Service Children's Progression Alliance (SCiP) was formed in late 2016 and states as its aim to:

'Champion the progression of the children of military personnel into and through further and higher education, so that they make informed and confident transitions into thriving adult lives and careers.'

<http://www.winchester.ac.uk/aboutus/wideningparticipation/military-service-children/Pages/Military-Service-Children.aspx>