



Impact Evaluation 2019-2022

Delivering outcomes that enhance the educational progression and wellbeing of children and young people from Armed Forces families

A report by Tiller Research Ltd on behalf of the SCiP Alliance

Authors: Dr Catharine Rose and Peter Rose



FINAL v1.0

May 2023

Executive Summary

The Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance is a UK-wide partnership of organisations working to improve outcomes for children and young people from Armed Forces families. It is hosted by the University of Winchester and supported by the Ministry of Defence. The SCiP Alliance commissioned Tiller Research to deliver an impact evaluation report on their progress across four strategic priorities (2019-2022): Partnership, Practice, Research, and Policy.

Methodology

Evidence of activities, outputs, outcomes and impact was submitted by the SCiP Alliance to the evaluation team. This comprised documents and data in multiple formats (e.g. project management records, contemporaneous records and notes, tangible outputs, research outputs, outcomes data, and commissioned evaluation reports). The evaluators aggregated these data within the four priority streams, where it indicated substantive impact. Evidence of impact within each stream was reviewed, and key elements were identified, along with outputs, outcomes and critical narratives. Impact was categorised according to the evidence of change represented, and these changes were compared to the impact anticipated by the SCiP Alliance's Theory of Change.

Results

- **Partnership** is at the heart of the SCiP Alliance. The community of practitioners and stakeholders lead and create change together through collaborative projects, shared expertise, shared resources and the UK-wide SCiP Alliance Hub network. Partnership activities and resulting outcomes create conditions that enable the delivery of activities addressing the other priorities of Practice, Research and Policy. Since 2019, progress in five key areas of partnership activity has been identified:
 - **Strategic Planning Groups:** the SCiP Alliance have a strong community leadership structure that generates active collaboration, planning, oversight, and project delivery;
 - **Events:** the community regularly meet through an annual programme of well-attended events;
 - **Online Resource Bank:** the SCiP Alliance has developed and maintains a freely accessible online resource bank, including bespoke tools and a gateway to the community's activities;
 - **Communication Channels:** the SCiP Alliance facilitates communication throughout the community through various channels (e.g. newsletter, social media, media representation);
 - **Hub Network:** the active SCiP Alliance Hub Network has expanded to 12 regional Hubs.

Outcomes (Partnership):

Strong and collaborative strategic leadership groups have led to the completion of many workstreams and strategic goals. By coordinating events, communication, and online access to resources, the SCiP Alliance has increased learning, insight, and peer support within the community.

- **Practice** is supported by the SCiP Alliance's work assisting education practitioners and other community stakeholders. Evidence of impact on practice centred on three key areas:
 - **The Thriving Lives Toolkit:** the SCiP Alliance has developed and disseminated this evidence-based guidance framework and CPD toolkit for schools through multiple formats and activities;
 - **Building Communities of Practice:** the SCiP Alliance enabled peer-to-peer learning and support by developing and promoting a broad suite of networking events;
 - **Creative Forces Events:** a programme of primary and secondary school outreach events was delivered by regional Hubs and Universities around the UK.

Outcomes (Practice):

Practitioners have increased peer support and access to evidence, and are increasingly using the Thriving Lives Toolkit to enable best practice in schools. Evidence finds that Creative Forces events are raising young people's post-16 aspirations and knowledge about University.

-
- **Research** has been a core focus of the SCiP Alliance, which supports and promotes high-quality research and evaluation in the sector. The SCiP Alliance asserts that evidence is vital to increase understanding and develop best practice. The resulting impact of this focus on research covered three key areas:
 - **New Research:** building the knowledge base by contributing a body of original research and producing and disseminating a series of evidence briefings;
 - **Online Research Repository:** disseminating and promoting high-quality research output from academic and non-academic sources through an online research repository;
 - **Dissemination of the Evidence Base at Events:** increasing community awareness of the latest research through live presentations at various events.

Outcomes (Research):

The SCiP Alliance has substantially contributed to and promoted the knowledge-base, increasing researchers' visibility, increasing practitioners' access to evidence, and developing knowledge of the issues affecting children and young people from Armed Forces families.

- **Policy** relating to the educational progression of children and young people from Armed Forces families is now increasingly informed by evidence and expert thought leadership. Policymakers often consult the SCiP Alliance when seeking evidence and guidance on this sector:
 - **Evidence and Insight to the UK Government:** the SCiP Alliance provides the UK Government with sector expertise, the latest research findings, and thought leadership;
 - **Changes to the UCAS application system:** SCiP Alliance's partnership has brought about policy change, with UCAS applicants able to indicate their Armed Forces family status from 2023;
 - **Further Education (FE) Policy Summit:** the SCiP Alliance hosted a Policy Summit on the progression of Service children through FE, connecting practitioners and policymakers.

Outcomes (Policy):

The SCiP Alliance's contribution to appeals for evidence from policymakers has ensured that government policy is informed by high-quality research evidence and expert thought leadership. The SCiP Alliance has also brought together partners and policymakers to address the under-researched issue of the post-16 progression of young people from Armed Forces families. The change to the UCAS application system demonstrates the potential long-term impact of the SCiP Alliance's collaborative and evidence-based approach to effecting change.

Recommendations

- Partnership has proven key to the substantial strategic progress made. It is recommended that this should remain central to future strategic planning, with continued focus placed on building and strengthening the Hub Network and an ongoing programme of activities and events;
- An evidence-led focus has been critical to developing the SCiP Alliance's trusted reputation. It is recommended that the Alliance continues to work to strengthen and disseminate the evidence base and address the data deficit in some areas of the cohort's educational journey;
- Despite evidence of the SCiP Alliance's positive impact, limited quantifiable data exists to assess scope and scale. It is recommended that attention is given to increasing data collection, including longitudinal data, enabling evaluation of changes made and sustained over time.

Contents

Section 1- Introduction

- 1.1 Context
- 1.2 Methodology

Section 2- Impact of Partnerships

- 2.1 Strategic Planning Groups
- 2.2 Events
- 2.3 Online Resource Bank
- 2.4 Communication Channels
- 2.5 Hub Network

Section 3- Impact on Practice

- 3.1 The Thriving Lives Toolkit
- 3.2 Building Communities of Practice
- 3.3 Creative Forces Events

Section 4- Impact from Research

- 4.1 New Research
- 4.2 Online Research Repository
- 4.3 Dissemination of the Evidence Base at Events

Section 5- Impact on Policy

- 5.1 Evidence and Insight to UK Government
- 5.2 Changes to the UCAS Application System
- 5.3 Further Education (FE) Policy Summit

Section 6- Overall Findings

- 6.1 Creating Change Through Partnership
- 6.2 Changing Lives Through Strengthened Practice
- 6.3 Research: underpinning and assessing action
- 6.4 Policy: removing barriers and targeting support
- 6.5 Policy: influencing the agenda
- 6.6 Moving Forwards

Section 7- Conclusion and Recommendations

- 7.1 Concluding Remarks
- 7.2 Recommendations

Appendix A- Summary of Outcomes

References

Section 1 – Introduction

1.1 Context

The Service Children's Progression Alliance (SCiP Alliance) is a UK-wide partnership of organisations focussed on enhancing the educational progression and wellbeing of children and young people from Armed Forces families. It is hosted by the University of Winchester and supported by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). The SCiP Alliance's activities are supported by a small central Team, and funded by a range of stakeholders and partners.

The SCiP Alliance originated to address the evidenced needs of children and young people from Armed Forces families. This cohort is very diverse, with huge potential; but are often at higher than average risk of disruption to their education and family lives as a result of circumstances commonly experienced by Armed Forces families.

The SCiP Alliance works towards its vision of *Thriving lives for Service children*:

We bring together practitioners, researchers, policymakers and funders to build a stronger evidence-base, better policy, and enhanced support for Service children's education and progression, placing their voices at the heart of all we do.¹

The SCiP Alliance commissioned Tiller Research Ltd to conduct an impact evaluation of the Alliance's work since 2019. This report examines the evidence of impact in each of the four priority areas of the SCiP Alliance 2019-2022 strategy: Partnership, Practice, Research, and Policy. A summary is provided of the SCiP Alliance's outcomes and impact for the period 2019 to 2022. The report concludes with a set of recommendations to support the SCiP Alliance in applying the learning from this evaluation to enhance future work.

1.2 Methodology

Evidence of activities, output, outcomes and impact was collated by the SCiP Alliance and submitted to the evaluation team. The evidence examined comprised an assortment of documents and data with a wide variety of both format and scope. Examples included project management records (e.g. usage and attendance figures, progress reports), contemporaneous records and notes (e.g. meeting minutes, feedback forms), tangible outputs (e.g. toolkits, resource bank), and previously processed data (e.g. research outputs, commissioned evaluation reports).

The evaluators sorted and aggregated these data within the four priority streams of **Partnership, Practice, Research, and Policy**. Where activities overlapped priority streams, the evaluators considered the extent to which impact in each area was substantive or incidental. Items were assigned to each stream where there was evidence of substantive impact, meaning that some were assigned to multiple priorities.

The evaluators reviewed all available data assigned to each priority area. Key elements were identified, along with associated outputs, outcomes and key narratives. These were categorised according to the available evidence of change either represented by or resulting from each item. The changes evidenced by the data was compared to the impact anticipated in the SCiP Alliance Theory of Change (fig. 1).

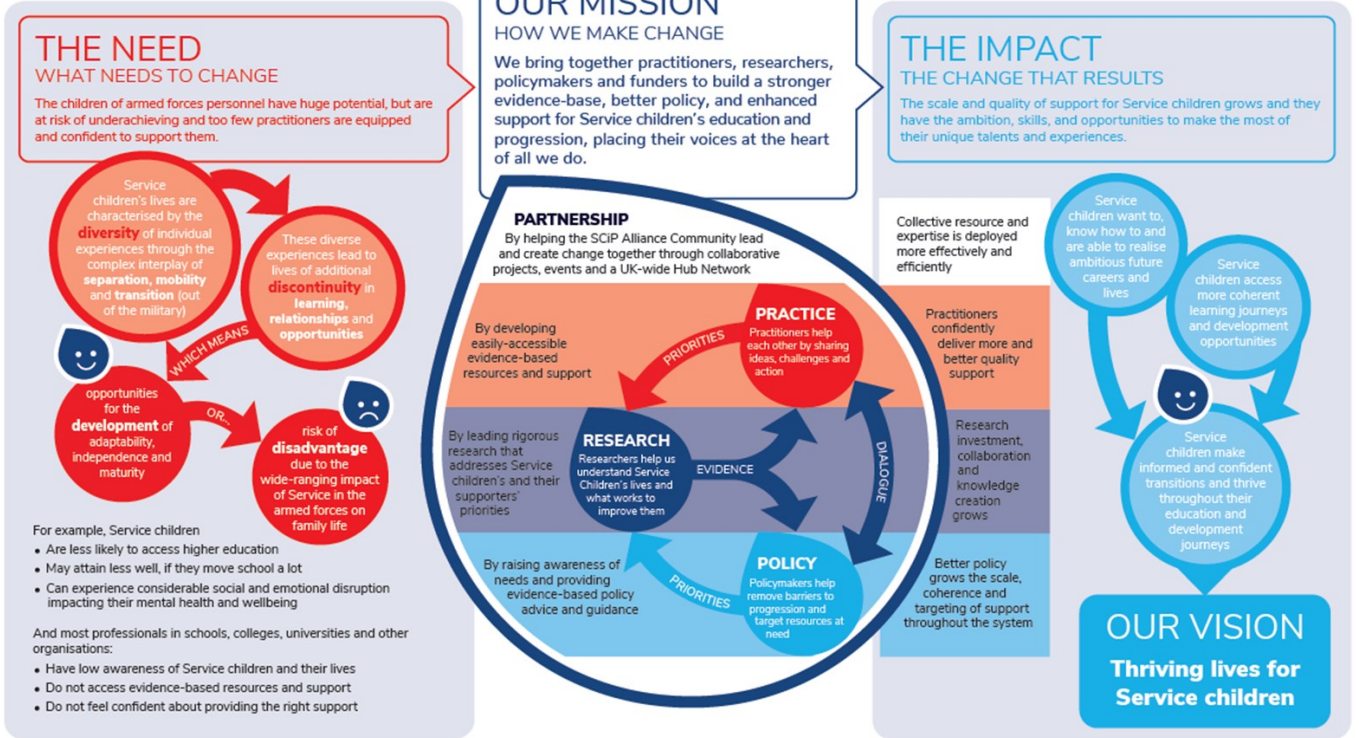


Figure 1: The SCIP Alliance Theory of Change

Section 2 – Impact of Partnerships

The SCiP Alliance has partnership at its heart. The community of practitioners and stakeholders lead and create change together through collaborative projects, sharing expertise and resources. The active UK-wide SCiP Alliance Hub network is central to this. Partnership activities and their resulting outcomes create conditions that enable impactful delivery of activities addressing the other priorities of Practice, Research and Policy, as illustrated in figure 1.

This evaluation identified that, since 2019, the SCiP Alliance has strengthened key partnerships with a UK-wide network of practitioners and stakeholders, and included children and young people from Armed Forces families in key strategic forums. Five key areas of partnership activity were identified, outlined in Table One.

Table One: Partnership Outcomes

Key Element	Output	Outcomes
PA-1 Strategic Planning Groups <i>Collaborative planning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> active collaborative planning and oversight of project delivery and strategic progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sustained progress towards/ successful completion of workstreams and identified strategic goals
PA-2 Events <i>Bringing partners together</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual programme of well-attended events including conferences, workshops and discussion forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased learning/ insight increased sector network increased dissemination of the evidence base and thought leadership
PA-3 Online Resource Bank <i>Identifying and sharing resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> freely accessible online bank of resources, including sector research and bespoke tools freely accessible gateway to the activities and output of the SCiP Alliance community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> those working to support children and young people from Armed Forces families have increased access to high quality resources and peer support, enhancing the quality of their delivery
PA-4 Communication Channels <i>Facilitating communication</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> monthly SCiP Alliance newsletter active SCiP Alliance social media pages media representation promoting sector interests and output supportive signposting service freely available to Armed Forces families and practitioners in support roles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the community and wider stakeholders are informed about the activities of the SCiP Alliance and sector the community and wider stakeholders have easy and free access to the information and signposting, enabling them to engage with relevant support
PA-5 Hub Network <i>Supporting regional partnerships</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> expanded UK-wide network of regional Hubs, rising from 8 to 12 active Hub Network community active Hub Leads Group, ensuring communication, quality and consistency across the network increased regional activity (e.g. outreach, CPD, events) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased peer-led support for those working to support children and young people from Armed Forces families in regions and devolved nations

2.1 Strategic Planning Groups- collaborative planning

A strong community leadership structure, consisting of the Board, Management Group and Hub Leads Group, shapes the strategic direction of the SCiP Alliance. Membership is broad to ensure representation across the sector, and currently comprises partners from all educational stages, Ministry of Defence, charities, local government, devolved nations, and members from Armed Forces families. The SCiP Alliance's small central team, based at the University of Winchester, provide administrative support to the activities of these groups.

Administrative records show that the respective strategic groups have diverse and representative membership, are meeting regularly throughout the year, have progressed and completed workstreams, and are recording progress towards their strategic goals.

Outcomes

Successful sustained progress and completion of strategically important workstreams. The groups have worked collaboratively to ensure quality and consistency in outputs that have subsequently been deployed and evaluated to enhance practice within the community.

Examples include:

- development of the SCiP Alliance Hub Handbook, 2022;
- development of the Creative Forces evaluation toolkit, 2022.

2.2 Events- bringing partners together

The SCiP Alliance has brought the community together, facilitating networking, learning and peer support through an active and diverse programme of events running between 2019-2022. Key events include:

- *SCiP Alliance Annual Conference*
The SCiP Alliance has hosted an annual conference with the objective of bringing stakeholders together to: review the latest evidence; discuss key issues together; strengthen professional networks; and support the flow of information necessary for effective partnership working. Annual conferences across the strategic period 2019-2022 were:
 - 2019: From Evidence to Action (London);
 - 2020: Connecting People (Online);
 - 2021: Leading Together (Birmingham);
 - 2022: Thriving Lives conferences. A UK-wide conference programme hosted by Hub Network members.
- *Stakeholder Workshop (March 2020)*
This workshop aimed to identify external and internal stakeholders and their existing or potential inter-relationships. Attendees reflected on how these stakeholders might be supported by an improved infrastructure developed or strengthened by the involvement of the SCiP Alliance.
- *Strategic Planning Day (July 2022)*
This event was attended by representatives from 52 organisations across the sector. Attendees reviewed the SCiP Alliance's progress to date on their strategic priorities 2019–2022, and considered future directions for the next strategic phase.

Outcomes

Evaluation of post-event feedback forms completed by delegates revealed that key outcomes for conference attendees were:

- gaining new learning/ insight;
- increased reach of evidence-based knowledge and practice;
- opportunity to network with peers and stakeholders.

Case Study 1: Leading Together

Compiled from delegate feedback from the 2021 Annual Conference

Partnership working was at the heart of the single-day SCiP Alliance Annual Conference *Leading Together*, held in 2021 in Birmingham. A total of 69 stakeholders from across the sector attended the event to review the latest research evidence, connect, share ideas, and discuss opportunities and initiatives to create change for children and young people from Armed Forces families.

The conference was chaired by Lizzie Rodulson, who is from an Armed Forces family. This is an example of action that demonstrates the SCiP Alliance's commitment to working in partnership with Armed Forces families. The day included presentations from leading academic researchers, supplemented with workshops and discussion sessions focussing on putting the recommendations and insight drawn from academic research into practice.

Analysis of feedback from conference delegates identified four messages most frequently taken away by delegates attending the event:

- That accurate data is needed to improve support for Service children;
- That listening to the voices of Service children and their families is vital;
- That collaboration between stakeholders is important, and is facilitated by the work of the SCiP Alliance;
- That stakeholders have a broad remit of work to carry out in order to create the positive changes needed to improve the lives of Service children.

Comments from delegates identified the value of attending the conference:

"SCiP has the power to bring together a wide range of services to improve the lives of Service children"

"Networking and having the full delegate list will make our future plans much easier, there were some very interesting and useful people there!"

The talks were excellent as were the workshops I attended. I also greatly valued hearing from Lizzie and Morgan about their personal experiences"

"[I'm feeling] inspired to keep going and to keep putting service pupils' needs as a priority"

2.3 Online Resource Bank- identifying and sharing resources

The SCiP Alliance has built an online resource bank which community members described in a 2022 consultation² as "a one-stop shop for practitioners". The resource bank comprises a range of support including: bespoke tools; news and events updates; a research repository; access to SCiP Alliance's work and publications.

The online resource bank serves as a gateway, connecting users with the SCiP Alliance community with pages dedicated to the Hub Network, and a Funders' Forum. Details are also provided of live projects and upcoming events hosted by members. The central team maintain the online resource bank, and facilitate the addition of news and research materials submitted by stakeholders and other relevant organisations.

The resource bank hosts two novel online tools designed to support those working to improve the lives of children and young people from Armed Forces families:

- *Online Thriving Lives toolkit (launched 2022)*
An accessible online version of the evidenced-based *Thriving Lives Toolkit* and CPD resources. This provides guidance to practitioners on supporting children and young people from Armed Forces families within a school environment;
- *Online Targeting Tool (launched in 2020)*
This is a bespoke tool utilising English Service Pupil Premium data, with which stakeholders can identify the number and distribution of Service children across English local authority areas.

Outcomes

The resource bank has enhanced access to high-quality resources that inform, guide and support those working with children and young people from Armed Forces families.

Evidence from usage data and consultation responses show that the community is using the resource bank and finds the resources there useful. Future follow-up data will be gathered to evaluate the specific impact of the online facility on practice.

- Evidence shows that the online resource bank is well-used with 23,750 users, and 80,421 page views recorded between 2018-2022. Additionally, 58 schools are using the online Thriving Lives toolkit (2022 figures);
- Evidence shows the Online Resource Bank has improved access to useful resources. In the 2022 community consultation, there was a 22% increase in the proportion of practitioners agreeing that they had found it easy to find suitable resources for supporting children and young people from Armed Forces families, compared with 2018. The increase was 75% for practitioners from universities and colleges.

2.4 Communication Channels- facilitating communication

The SCiP Alliance central team plays an important role in ensuring that partners across the sector are up-to-date with activities and events in the community, and that the work of the SCiP Alliance features in the wider social conversation.

The central team produce and distribute a monthly SCiP Alliance newsletter, and uses a range of promotional channels including Twitter, radio and print media. A signposting service is provided to parents or professionals supporting children and young people from

an Armed Forces family who are searching for guidance or resources, and often receive enquiries referred from other organisations. These communication activities achieve a significant reach:

- The SCiP Alliance **Twitter feed** achieves substantial engagement from the community, with 176 tweets generating 234,000 impressions and 1232 post-engagements (2019-2022);
- The community have engaged with the SCiP Alliance **newsletter**, which has 442 current subscribers;
- The Central Team have represented the SCiP Alliance in **the mainstream and sector media**, including interviews on BBC Radio Solent (June 2019), BFBS Salisbury Plain Radio/Forces Radio (November 2020; February 2022); FE News (April 2022).

Outcomes

The evidence indicates that the community and wider stakeholders are informed about the activities of the SCiP Alliance and sector, and are enabled to identify and engage with relevant support. In the 2022 community consultation, stakeholders explained how the Alliance is useful for enhancing partnerships between families and practitioners:

"It's a nationwide resource and it means that when children are transitioning, as Service children do, the information can be shared. A family can say, 'oh this resource helped to support our family when we were in Wiltshire'[...] They can pass on that information because it's widely available and free.

2.5 Hub Network- supporting regional partnerships

The UK-wide Hub Network is at the core of the SCiP Alliance, bringing allies together within the devolved nations and English regions. The Hub Network has grown in size, activity and influence between 2019 and 2022.

Four new regional Hubs have been established since 2019, increasing the size of the network to 12 hubs located around the UK, with a total of 891 members. The Hub Network creates positive change for children and young people from Armed Forces families by:

- Increasing practitioners' knowledge of and support for children and young people from Armed Forces families;
- Helping practitioners to develop confidence, access resources and share best practice;
- Increasing consistent, high-quality outreach work with schools, colleges and universities;
- Increasing local intelligence, so enabling better support for children and young people from Armed Forces families around the UK.

Hubs engage with practitioners, stakeholders and schools in their area through a broad and active programme of meetings and events (e.g. Creative Forces Days, CPD workshops, Thriving Lives conferences). The Hub Leads Group support the network and ensures consistency in the set-up processes and operations of the regional Hubs, producing the SCiP Alliance Hub Handbook in September 2022.

Outcomes

Consultation data (2022) found that, of those SCiP Alliance members who had engaged with a local Hub, 82% of considered the Hub Network to be useful to their work in supporting children and young people from Armed Forces families:

"It is incredibly heartening to see our member schools, colleges, universities, charities, and Armed Forces representatives pull together so enthusiastically to share knowledge, resources, and best practice. All with an infectious passion to support London's Armed Forces community."

"It's the best of both worlds. You've got national coverage, but then you've got local knowledge, understanding and different skills."

Section 3 – Impact on Practice

The SCiP Alliance provides a range of assistance to education practitioners and other stakeholders working to support the educational progression and wellbeing of children and young people from Armed Forces families. Evidence of the SCiP Alliance’s impact on practice centred on three key areas, outlined in Table Two.

Table Two: Practice Outcomes

Key Element	Output	Outcomes
PR-1 The Thriving Lives Toolkit <i>An evidence-based guidance framework for schools</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> guidance and CPD resources freely available to school-based practitioners working with children and young people from Armed Forces families increased accessibility: online and print versions; English and Welsh language versions dissemination activities, including online and social media advertising; and Thriving Lives events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased numbers of practitioners in schools around the UK are aware of the Thriving Lives framework and understand its implementation in school increased numbers of practitioners are using the Thriving Lives framework as a reference to support best practice in their schools
PR-2 Building Communities of Practice <i>Enabling peer-to-peer learning and support</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> central team working in partnership with the Hub network to develop community networking events central team organise and promote Annual Conference(s) and CPD events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> practitioners are increasingly able to network with other sector experts and policymakers resources are better shared and utilised by practitioners through discussion, targeted action and the avoidance of duplication information, knowledge and sector changes are shared easily and frequently among the community of practitioners and stakeholders increase in peer-led training and support
PR-3 Creative Forces Events <i>Developing opportunities and self-efficacy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a programme of primary and secondary outreach events delivered at universities around the UK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attendees have increased awareness of the opportunities offered by universities attendees have increased their aspirations regarding post-16 progression and university education children and young people from Armed Forces families have enjoyed a positive first-hand experience of a university.

3.1 The Thriving Lives Toolkit- an evidence-based guidance framework for schools

Development and Publication

The SCiP Alliance developed the Thriving Lives Toolkit to provide schools with an evidence-based framework and CPD toolkit to enable them to support children and young people from Armed Forces families. The framework of support presented in the toolkit is underpinned by rigorous research, including work specifically commissioned from independent experts at the University of Derby in 2019³.

The Thriving Lives Toolkit was originally launched in 2019. Subsequent additional work was commissioned to enhance the usability and CPD utility of the toolkit⁴. An online version, designed to increase accessibility of the toolkit, was launched in 2022. This has proved popular, with 58 schools registering to use the tool online in the same year. Both the print and online versions are available in Welsh.

Dissemination

The Hub Network hosted a programme of Thriving Lives conferences to maximise dissemination of the toolkit. Practitioners were given the opportunity to discuss their use of the tools with fellow practitioners and the central team. Engagement with the toolkit through the conference round was considerable, with 830 registrants. A total of 667 delegates attended a Thriving Lives conference in person, with 242 people viewing the recorded conference online.

Outcomes

The Thriving Lives Toolkit has provided clear and accessible guidance to practitioners. Although only limited impact evidence is currently available, early indications are that the tool is being utilised by practitioners to enhance practice within schools:

- **Increased awareness**
Following attendance at a Thriving Lives event, 98% of attendees who completed a post-event questionnaire agreed that "I now understand more about the educational experience of service children."⁵
- **Increased in-school support**
implementation of the Thriving Lives Toolkit is making a difference to school practitioners working with children and young people from Armed Forces families. In December 2022, the SCiP Alliance commissioned an evaluation of the toolkit⁶ which found that, of 20 schools using the toolkit:
 - 100% had implemented some or all of the seven Thriving Lives principles;
 - 100% felt the toolkit was "a positive and useful resource".

"Development of the Thriving Lives toolkit was really helpful [...] I just check in and make sure that the things on there are happening and, if I'm a bit stuck about a family, then I will use that as a reference." [Secondary Teacher]⁷

Further work is now needed to assess the longer-term impacts for children and young people of using the toolkit.

3.2 Building Communities of Practice- enabling peer-to-peer learning and support

The SCiP Alliance builds communities of practice and learning through conferences, CPD events and peer meetings. These events enable practitioners to share knowledge, ideas and resources, through which they support and inspire each other. Communities network and strengthen through three key activities:

- SCiP Alliance conferences (run each year 2019-2022);
- Hubs Network activity (e.g. events, meetings);
- Peer-led CPD activities.

The evaluation data shows that the SCiP central team have a vital role in supporting the wider SCiP Alliance community to maintain and strengthen vibrant communities of practice.

The central team:

- Organises and coordinates the SCiP Alliance Annual Conference;
- Delivers or co-delivers training-the-trainer and other CPD activities;
- Coordinates the activities of the Hub Leads group;
- Advertises events and new resources to the SCiP Alliance membership and wider stakeholders.

Case Study 2: Train-the-Trainer CPD

In collaboration with the SCiP Alliance, Southern Universities Network (SUN) has created an accredited online Train-the-Trainer session called *An Introduction to Supporting Service Children in Schools*. This is designed for all secondary school staff, including senior leaders, teachers, and those in pastoral non-teaching roles.

The SCiP Alliance central team collaborated with the SUN Hub Lead to co-deliver initial Train-the-Trainer sessions to around a dozen members of the SUN Uni Connect team. SUN then used this training to develop an accredited online training session, which SUN rolled out to schools across Hampshire. The session continues to be available and promoted to schools in 2023.

In a 2022 consultation, Hub members emphasised the ongoing importance of ensuring that schools are aware of the needs of children and young people from Armed Forces families through initiatives like the SUN Train the Trainer workshop:

"We've spoken to schools and we've had a lot of pushback on that they don't want to target these students, they almost don't see the need, or they think there are other more important groups of students [...] I think there's an important role to play there in encouraging an understanding of why these students need support." [Hub Member / UNI Connect representative]

Outcomes

Evaluation of activities, event feedback and community consultation data identified that the SCiP Alliance's support of communities of practice is useful in a number of ways:

- Conferences and events bring together the expert SCiP Alliance community with influential researchers and policymakers who, together, can effect change;
- Through increased communication, networking and collaboration, action can be better targeted and duplication avoided;
- Knowledge and resources can be shared and disseminated by people directly influencing the lives of children and young people from Armed Forces families;
- Peer-led training is effective at engaging colleagues, directly addressing the everyday in-school experiences of practitioners.

"I think the more we all understand what everyone else is doing the better, so we don't duplicate, but also so we can collaborate and partner to do better stuff together. SCiP is pivotal in that." [Armed Forces charity representative]

3.3 Creative Forces Events- developing opportunities and self-efficacy

Academic research has identified that Service children are less likely to progress to Higher Education than their non-service peers⁸. The SCiP Alliance responded to this situation by developing Creative Forces days, which are outreach activities delivered by collaborative partnerships between SCiP Alliance members and universities.

Creative Forces events vary somewhat as they take on board the identity and specialism of the host university, together with the interests and age range of the visiting schools. However, all Creative Forces days offer young people the core activities of:

- a day visit to a university campus;
- opportunity to take part in on-campus activities with other young people from Armed Forces families;
- showcasing of the courses and facilities available at the university;
- information about the support those from Armed Forces families can receive at university;
- meeting university students from Armed Forces backgrounds;
- reflection and discussion about the experiences, challenges, and strengths they have as a young person from an Armed Forces family.

To ensure the consistency and quality of Creative Forces days, the SCiP Central Team developed a toolkit of guidance for those running these events in their area. In collaboration with partners at FutureHY, the SCiP Alliance also developed an evaluation toolkit designed for those running Creative Forces days. This evaluation framework is important for ensuring consistency in quality and outcomes.

Outcomes

Creative Forces is an example of the SCiP Alliance using its sector expertise, UK-wide practitioner network, partnership approach, and commitment to the evidence base to develop a solution to a key issue that improves educational practice and creates positive change for Service children.

In 2019, the SCiP Alliance published an evaluation of Creative Forces, with data supplied by 76 primary children across two events, and 75 secondary school children across six events. Overall, the evaluation reported improvements on all questions, with the greatest change shown in participants' awareness of what a university can offer, and their confidence and aspirations relating to progression to University.

The evaluation also found that Creative Forces days are enjoyable, engaging events, with participants identifying impacts they have experienced from attending:

"I feel more comfortable about the concept of [university] and I feel less worried"
[Secondary school pupil]

"It has given me the idea to focus on the thing I want to do" [Primary school pupil]

"I believe I can get into University now that I know the different routes I can take." [Secondary school pupil]

Section 4 – Impact from Research

The SCiP Alliance supports high quality research and evaluation throughout the sector, with the goal of increasing understanding of what actions best enable the educational progression of children and young people from Armed Forces families.

The SCiP Alliance has focussed on collating high quality research from across the sector, and disseminating this through the community. Where specific gaps have been identified, the Alliance has commissioned or undertaken new research. This enables the SCiP Alliance community to use an evidence-led approach, with quality research central to:

- Strengthening the case for change;
- Enhancing effective policymaking;
- Enabling the development of effective, evidence-led practice.

Evidence of the impact resulting from the SCiP Alliance’s research was comprised of three key elements, outlined in Table Three.

Table Three: Research Outcomes

Key Element	Output	Outcomes
RE-1 New Research <i>Building the knowledge base</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribution of a body of original research to the knowledge-base • evidence briefings produced by the SCiP Alliance to reference and share updated knowledge on a range of pertinent topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased awareness of issues relating to the educational progression of Service children • increased understanding of issues which were not previously the focus of research
RE-2 Online Research Repository <i>Disseminating high-quality research</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • online repository providing free access to high-quality research from both academic and non-academic sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • researchers increase the visibility and profile of their work • the community can more easily locate and access high-quality research evidence to inform their practice
RE-3 Dissemination of the Evidence Base at Events <i>Increasing community awareness of research</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the SCiP Alliance regularly presents the latest research evidence at a range of community events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased awareness in the sector of the issues affecting children and young people from Armed forces families • stakeholders empowered to build a strong case for action underpinned by high-quality evidence

4.1 New Research- building the knowledge base

During the three years from 2019 - 2022, the SCiP Alliance has both conducted and commissioned high-quality research relevant to understanding the educational progression of children and young people from Armed Forces families. This work has sought to address identified gaps in the evidence base, enhance understanding of the lives of this cohort including the opportunities they experience and challenges they face, and identify what does (and does not) work to support their educational progression.

In addition, the SCiP Alliance has produced a number of comprehensive evidence briefings for use by the sector. Key research outputs for the period 2019-2020 include:

- Original research exploring experience and best practice concerning Service children's educational progression;
- Original research underpinning the design of new practitioner resources (e.g. the Thriving Lives toolkit);
- Evidence briefings on key topics (e.g. Moving Schools; Resilience; Teachers' CPD);
- Consultation with SCiP Alliance members and wider stakeholders.
- Literature reviews

Outcomes

The SCiP Alliance maximises opportunities to create lasting change for children and young people from Armed Forces families by ensuring that priorities and activities are increasingly underpinned by evidence obtained through rigorous research.

SCiP Alliance member consultation data found that the impact of underpinning action with research evidence included:

- Raised awareness among practitioners of the challenges and inequalities often experienced by children and young people from Armed Forces families, which can be 'hidden' (e.g. underrepresentation of the cohort in Higher Education);
- Unevidenced assumptions within the sector are challenged effectively (e.g. that high-performing or resilient Service children will not need support);
- Increased recognition of voices absent from existing research, broadening the perspectives considered within policy and practice development, including those of children and young people from Armed Forces families;
- Practitioners have confidence in the resources developed by SCiP Alliance, increasing the development of evidence-based practice.

"It's really good to know that what you're promoting or what you're sharing has a very solid base behind it, so that you know that the evidence that was bought together to justify that as a tool [...] You know that when a school looks at it, or someone within the sector looks at it, that it doesn't immediately fall apart with that little bit of scrutiny." [Military Charity]

"We went to the last SCiP conference and there was a military child there, who is now at University [...] She said it wasn't until she was older that she realised a lot of the challenges that came from her background and the support she wished she'd had... You're trying to support a group who maybe themselves won't even, at times, say I'm in need lots of extra support. But the research is clearly showing that there are ways that they could benefit from that additional support." [Widening Participation Officer]

4.2 Online Research Repository- disseminating high-quality research

Research evidence can be disparately located, difficult to access and of varying quality. The SCiP Alliance created an online research repository so that the community of practitioners and other stakeholders working to support children and young people from Armed Forces families can easily access a catalogue of high-quality research from a range of academic and practitioner sources.

Materials available include a wide range of research conducted by external bodies, including Universities and charities. Also included is research directly undertaken or commissioned by the SCiP Alliance, and the SCiP Alliance's evidence briefings.

Regularly reviewed and maintained by the SCiP Alliance central team, the research repository has become a well-known and popular source of research material, with 1,800 documents downloaded in the year 2021-2022.

Outcomes

The SCiP Alliance research repository is recognised as a trusted source of high-quality, relevant evidence that is used by practitioners and stakeholders to inform work supporting children and young people from Armed Forces families.

- Researchers have increased the visibility, profile and impact of their work by contributing to the repository;
- Practitioners have increased access to high-quality research evidence to inform their practice, as a result of the repository being trusted and easily located.

4.3 Dissemination of the Evidence Base at Events increasing community awareness of research

Between 2019 and 2022, the SCiP Alliance has worked to disseminate the latest research. This includes delivery of engaging presentations at a range of live and online events attended by sector practitioners and stakeholders, including:

- Over 30 presentations delivered at conferences and roundtable events;
 - e.g. NICEC Seminar, 2019: SCiP Alliance, the International Centre for Guidance Studies and Skills Development Scotland presented at a seminar exploring careers guidance for Armed Forces children. This highlighted underlying issues, and showcased different approaches to practice;
- SCiP Alliance's Research Seminar (held in 2019);
- Researcher keynote speeches positioned at the heart of every SCiP Alliance Annual Conference. For example, keynote presentations for Leading Together 2021 were:
 - Dr. Claire Lees (Oxford Brookes University). *Leading with Service children's voices: Principles into Practice*;
 - Dr. Gabriela Misca (University of Worcester, co-author of *Living in our Shoes*). *Leading for Sustainable Change: The 'Living in Our Shoes' Review: from recommendations to priorities*.

Live dissemination of research at events promotes a culture of shared learning. Practitioners develop awareness of relevant, high-quality research, and have the opportunity to discuss findings directly with researchers. Those undertaking research can engage with practitioners, develop an understanding of the application of their work, and identify opportunities for further investigation and collaboration.

Outcomes

High-quality, evidence-based research enhances practice and support for children and young people from Armed Forces families through:

- Raised awareness of challenges and opportunities experienced by the cohort;
- Increased confidence in practice and strategy underpinned by research and evaluation evidence;
- Stakeholders are empowered to build a strong case for action.

"It's really good to know that what you're promoting or sharing has a very solid base behind it." [SCiP Alliance Hub member]

"They work closely with teachers, head teachers, the local authorities that are responsible for education and provision. Being able to tap into those networks has been fantastic because it enables us to have collaboration on other projects with these individuals, and it enables us to [...] disseminate our research directly to the people that we feel this may be of interest and benefit to." [Academic researcher]⁹

Section 5 – Impact on Policy

The SCiP Alliance community supports policymakers to better understand the needs of children and young people from Armed Forces families through ongoing dialogue and thought-leadership. This has resulted in recognition of the SCiP Alliance as a source of high-quality evidence, and of tangible developments that are anticipated to increase the quality of support available for this cohort. Policy impact of the SCiP Alliance has been identified in three areas, outlined in Table Four.

Table Four: Policy Outcomes

Key Element	Output	Outcomes
PO-1 Evidence and Insight to UK Government <i>A trusted voice for the sector</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the SCiP Alliance provides Government with sector expertise, the latest research findings, and thought leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contributed annually to the Armed Forces Covenant report contributed to the UK Government's <i>Living in Our Shoes</i> report (2020) provided an expert response to relevant calls for evidence (e.g. Armed Forces Bill 2021)
PO-2 Changes to the UCAS application system <i>Working in partnership to bring about policy change</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCAS applicants will be able to indicate their Armed Forces family status on their application from 2023 onwards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> anticipated future increase of support available to university applicants and students from Armed Forces families the sector will be able to access tracking data from 2023 onwards to support knowledge of and research into the progression of young people from Armed Forces families through Higher Education and beyond
PO-3 Further Education (FE) Policy Summit <i>Connecting practitioners and policymakers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the SCiP Alliance organised and hosted a Policy Summit on the progression of Service children through FE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased dialogue and collaboration between relevant sector stakeholders initiation of workstream to embed post-16 support into the strategic planning of FE institutions

5.1 Evidence and Insight to UK Government a trusted voice for the sector

The SCiP Alliance provides the UK Government with trustworthy guidance, sector expertise and key research evidence through their active network of experts and online research repository. This creates conditions to support change:

- The SCiP Alliance's work supports the case for evidence-based policy development, which hears the voice of children and young people from Armed Forces families;
- The SCiP Alliance are able to connect policymakers with sector expertise;
- The SCiP Alliance community is UK-wide and can provide vital lived insight into both national issues and variations across devolved nations and regions;

Outcomes

Since 2019, the SCiP Alliance has demonstrated value as a sought-after provider of sector contacts, evidence and thought leadership. Contributions include:

- annually to the Armed Forces Covenant report;
- Living in Our Shoes report (2020)¹⁰;
- expert response to Government calls for evidence (e.g. Armed Forces Bill 2021)

"It takes it beyond the various organisations which, for very good reasons, are lobbying for government changes [...] There is a level of objectivity that [the SCiP Alliance] can bring to bear in terms of the policy advice that we might provide [...] It is always really helpful to be able to point towards stronger, non-partisan evidence generated to keep in line with good practice in terms of what research evidence should look like."
[Department for Education representative]

5.2 Changes to the UCAS Application System working in partnership to bring about policy change

The SCiP Alliance worked with the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) to establish guidance for young people from Armed Forces families applying to higher education institutions (HEIs). From 2023 onwards, the UCAS application form will include an option for applicants to declare their Armed Forces or Veteran family status.

It is anticipated that this policy change will improve the lives of young people from Armed Forces families by increasing access to specific support for those entering University. The change is anticipated to:

- Contextualise UCAS application data and personal statements (e.g. multiple school/course changes, transfers, gaps);
- Enable HEIs to track the progression outcomes of students from an Armed Forces background;
- Enable HEIs to identify young people who may benefit from tailored support during their University journey;
- Support sector research by providing nationwide data on the progress of young people from an Armed Forces background through higher education and beyond.

The changes made to the UCAS application are an example of how the SCiP Alliance's priorities of partnership working and reference to the research evidence base have led to policy change. In a community consultation in 2022, members of the network reflected on the anticipated impact from the introduction of this change:

"Nobody knows the impact of [the UCAS marker] yet, but even to have that as a young adult, as part of a Service family, to have the opportunity to put that down, to have that focus and to have that other support that goes around it. I know [the SCiP Alliance] were instrumental in advocating for that." [Military charity representative]

5.3 Further Education (FE) Policy Summit connecting practitioners and policymakers

Through undertaking consultation and research, the SCiP Alliance became aware of the lack of research and intelligence on the post-16 progression of children and young people from Armed Forces families. In July 2021, the SCiP Alliance organised an FE Policy Summit bringing together stakeholders to discuss the issues, review the existing evidence base, and identify pathways forward.

The FE Policy Summit resulted in:

- Increased dialogue and collaboration between the FE sector and stakeholders;
- Initiation of actions to address the gaps in the evidence base (e.g. devising ways to track progression post-16);
- Initiation of work to embed support for young people from Armed Forces families into FE organisations' strategic planning.

Moving forwards, the SCiP Alliance community is now working together on strategy and actions to help the cohort thrive post-16. This will take time to reach fruition, but through the partnership and strategy that resulted from the initial Policy Summit, the sector can take evidence-based action to address the issues underlying the challenges that young people from Armed Forces families encounter when progressing through Further Education.

"When you get to the teenagers, it's complicated to provide specific support [and] I think the key is having awareness. Most FE colleges will say they have universal delivery [...] They will say they can cater for all anyway, so they don't need this awareness of which children are from a Service background [...] I think that reflects there is a gap and that's an area we need to develop more, and understand more." [Ministry of Defence representative]

Section 6 – Overall Findings

The aim of this report was to review the impact delivered by the SCiP Alliance's work during the period 2019 – 2022. Evaluation of the available data shows that the SCiP Alliance have made progress across all four priority areas- Partnership, Practice, Research and Policy- delivering tangible short to medium-term outcomes. Appendix A summarises the outcomes identified.

6.1 Creating Change Through Partnership

Partnership is both a discrete priority area and a principle through which SCiP Alliance activity is delivered across the remaining priorities of practice, research, and policy, as illustrated in the Alliance's Theory of Change (see section 1.2). The SCiP Alliance had stronger partnerships in 2022 compared with 2019, having expanded partnership working in all areas of activity.

Internal partnerships have grown with the expansion of the Hub Network and through the inclusion of young people from Armed Forces families within the Management Group. An active programme of events and CPD, including both online and offline activities, have brought the SCiP Alliance community together regularly to plan, discuss, share and review both their work and wider issues in the sector.

External partnerships have developed through a range of events and active communication channels. In line with the SCiP Alliance Theory of Change, both internal and external partnership working has been central to positive change in practice, research and policy. Of particular importance has been the engagement of partners in devolved nations and regions, supported by the activities of SCiP Alliance Hubs. Engaged expertise from across nations and regions has ensured the SCiP Alliance remains both abreast of and responsive to variations in policy and provision around the UK, and so can effectively address the issues affecting the educational progression of all children and young people from Armed Forces families.

6.2 Changing Lives Through Strengthened Practice

Since 2019, the SCiP Alliance has made a substantial contribution to practice, both in terms of raising awareness of the needs of children and young people from Armed Forces families and in providing practical support for practitioners. The SCiP Alliance developed and published the signature Thriving Lives toolkit, providing an accessible, evidence-based guidance framework and CPD pack for practitioners supporting Service children within their schools. The toolkit has been widely disseminated through dedicated events and online channels, as well as through engagement with partner organisations and the wider media. The comprehensive focus on dissemination since the Thriving Lives Toolkit launch in 2019 has increased practitioners' awareness of the tool, and its uptake by schools and has raised awareness of the wider work of the SCiP Alliance.

The SCiP Alliance has a distinctive role within the sector as an organisation that enables change and thought leadership. A clear outcome of the Alliance's work is success in building communities of practice. By bringing practitioners together through the Hub Network and an active programme of CPD events, the SCiP Alliance have increased the availability of practitioner peer-to-peer support. The SCiP Alliance has also facilitated practice in widening participation through work in bringing together practitioners in schools and universities, supporting the further development of University outreach to children and young people

from Armed Forces families. The SCiP Alliance has supported a UK-wide programme of Creative Forces days, providing inspiration, guidance, event templates, administrative and publicity support, contacts and evaluation tools. The SCiP Alliance model of Creative Forces days allows events to have a flexible nature, directed by the interests of local or regional partners organising and hosting the day, while simultaneously ensuring consistent quality of these events. The success of the Creative Forces model demonstrates the power of the SCiP Alliance as a national organisation which works effectively with multiple stakeholders located in schools, universities and Armed Forces communities around the UK.

6.3 Research: underpinning and assessing action

The SCiP Alliance has a track record of grounding its priorities and activities in the research evidence base. This approach has continued throughout this strategic period, with the Alliance active both in undertaking research directly and in commissioning research from external partners. The SCiP Alliance's Listening to Learn (2019) report disseminated learning from a year-long research programme gathering insights from practitioners and young people on how the sector can effectively listen to and learn from the voices of Service children. Findings from the project underpin the practice of the SCiP Alliance, with an increase in the direct involvement of young people from Armed Forces families in the Alliance's work. The Thriving Lives Toolkit promotes the principle that 'Children are heard', and is an example of research results directly influencing practice.

As well as undertaking and commissioning its own research programme, the SCiP Alliance has developed infrastructure and activity to become an effective conduit of research dissemination across the sector. Key progress includes the creation of an online research repository, which is well utilised by both researchers and stakeholders seeking high-quality evidence. In addition, the central team has collaborated with partners and stakeholders to run a well-attended programme of research-focused events. The SCiP Alliance central team has also worked on translating the evidence-base into formats that are accessible for busy practitioners and those without specialist research knowledge through their production of evidence briefings, CPD presentations, a regular newsletter and blog updates.

6.4 Policy: removing barriers and targeting support

Of the four strategic priorities addressed from 2019 to 2022, fewest tangible outcomes are observed in the area of policy. Effecting policy change takes time, and the evidence indicates that significant groundwork has been completed that is likely to lead to future impact. The SCiP Alliance has clearly become a source of trusted information on the educational progression of children and young people from Armed Forces families, demonstrated by the fact that Government and other public organisations regularly seek input from the Alliance. This recognises that the SCiP Alliance's commitment to rigorous research evidence offers both a breadth and depth of expertise, and a level of objectivity.

An example of tangible policy influence occurred in 2022 when UCAS announced forthcoming changes to the university application form, allowing applicants to indicate their Armed Forces family status. This originated from a partnership with UCAS in which the SCiP Alliance raised awareness of the issues facing children and young people from Armed Forces families. Anticipated long-term impacts of this change will be an increase in specific support available for students from Armed Forces families, and the ability of the sector to research progression of this cohort to inform and enhance practice.

6.5 Policy: influencing the agenda

Outcome data shows that the SCiP Alliance has been serving an important role in maintaining the visibility of children and young people from Armed Forces family within a turbulent political landscape. The Alliance ensures that the Government receives the latest research on the educational progression of Armed Forces children, and remains informed of important developments in the sector.

The SCiP Alliance continues to play an important role in investigating where support is needed, and examining the educational progression of children and young people from Armed Forces families within existing policy frameworks. The work of the SCiP Alliance in identifying the lack of data and recognition of the cohort within Further Education (FE) led to the output of a successful FE policy summit in 2021. From this summit, initial work in partnership and planning has begun to improve the situation in FE, including the publishing of a set of recommendations for post-16 leaders, policymakers, the research community, Government and the Ministry of Defence¹¹.

From outcomes achieved to date across all priority areas, the SCiP Alliance has demonstrated success by enabling practical change through the building of partnerships, the setting of priorities and action plans underpinned by a strong evidence-base, and through harnessing the energy and interests of their broad membership of experts and stakeholders.

6.6 Moving Forwards

Evaluation of the activities of the SCiP Alliance to date has encountered two key challenges. Firstly, aggregating outcomes from a diverse range of activities and, secondly, assessing the longer-term impact of those activities which require time to come to fruition.

Demonstrating impact should be a priority for the SCiP Alliance moving forwards. Recent development of an evaluation framework will support this work, identifying specific measures by which activities and outputs are evaluated. The volume of activity already undertaken by the SCiP Alliance has sown the seeds of change. As this report shows, much of this is already yielding tangible outcomes that will improve the educational progression of children and young people from Armed Forces families. The indications are that this impact will continue to grow.

Section 7 – Conclusion and Recommendations

7.1 Concluding Remarks

The SCiP Alliance identified four priorities areas for the period 2019-2022: partnership, practice, research and policy. This evaluation shows that substantial progress resulting in practical and tangible outcomes has been made in all priority areas, with the greatest progress evidenced in partnership and practice.

The practical nature of outcomes in all areas has resulted in improvement in practice and enhancements to the support received by many children and young people from Armed Forces families around the UK. The partnership ethos and healthy partnership structure developed by the SCiP Alliance can be seen as central to success across all priority areas.

The value of a strong evidence base is evident in the progress made in building partnerships and initiating policy changes. The impact of this work will only become evident in the longer term. Nevertheless, the Alliance's focus on evidence and partnership has created positive conditions which indicate a strong likelihood of positive future impact for the educational success and wellbeing of children and young people from Armed Forces families.

7.2 Recommendations

- Community and partnership have proven key to the progress made by the SCiP Alliance to date. It is recommended that these should remain central to future strategic planning. This will require continued focus on building, strengthening and maintaining the Hub Network, a programme of community events, and other activities that will engage a broad base of practitioners, policymakers and wider stakeholders in the mission of the SCiP Alliance;
- An evidence-led focus has been a key factor in the SCiP Alliance developing a trusted reputation with practitioners and policymakers. It is recommended that work to strengthen the evidence base continues, in particular addressing the lack of data in some areas of the cohort's educational journey, including FE;
- Although there is considerable evidence of the positive impact of the SCiP Alliance, there is limited quantifiable data currently available to assess the scope and scale of this impact. It is recommended that particular attention is given to increasing the systematic collection of impact data, including follow-up data to examine changes made and maintained over time. This will enable longitudinal evaluation of the impact of the Alliance's work, and better understanding of the full extent of impact on the educational progression and wellbeing of children and young people from Armed Forces families.

Appendix A- Summary of Outcomes

	Key Element	Output	Outcomes
PARTNERSHIP OUTCOMES	PA-1 Strategic Planning Groups <i>Collaborative planning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> active collaborative planning and oversight of project delivery and strategic progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sustained progress towards/ successful completion of workstreams and identified strategic goals
	PA-2 Events <i>Bringing partners together</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual programme of well-attended events including conferences, workshops and discussion forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased learning/ insight increased sector network increased dissemination of the evidence base and thought leadership
	PA-3 Online Resource Bank <i>Identifying and sharing resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> freely accessible online bank of resources, including sector research and bespoke tools freely accessible gateway to the activities and output of the SCiP Alliance community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> those working to support children and young people from Armed Forces families have increased access to high quality resources and peer support, enhancing the quality of their delivery
	PA-4 Communication Channels <i>Facilitating communication</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> monthly SCiP Alliance newsletter active SCiP Alliance social media pages media representation promoting sector interests and output supportive signposting service freely available to Armed Forces families and practitioners in support roles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the community and wider stakeholders are informed about the activities of the SCiP Alliance and sector the community and wider stakeholders have easy and free access to the information and signposting, enabling them to engage with relevant support
	PA-5 Hub Network <i>Supporting regional partnerships</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> expanded UK-wide network of regional Hubs, rising from 8 to 12 active Hub Network community active Hub Leads Group, ensuring communication, quality and consistency across the network increased regional activity (e.g. outreach, CPD, events) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased peer-led support for those working to support children and young people from Armed Forces families in regions and devolved nations
PRACTICE OUTCOMES	PR-1 The Thriving Lives Toolkit <i>An evidence-based guidance framework for schools</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> guidance and CPD resources freely available to school-based practitioners working with children and young people from Armed Forces families increased accessibility: online and print versions; English and Welsh language versions dissemination activities, including online and social media advertising; and Thriving Lives events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased numbers of practitioners in schools around the UK are aware of the Thriving Lives framework and understand its implementation in school increased numbers of practitioners are using the Thriving Lives framework as a reference to support best practice in their schools
	PR-2 Building Communities of Practice <i>Enabling peer-to-peer learning and support</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> central team working in partnership with the Hub network to develop community networking events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> practitioners are increasingly able to network with other sector experts and policymakers resources are better shared and utilised by practitioners through discussion,

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> central team organise and promote Annual Conference(s) and CPD events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> targeted action and the avoidance of duplication information, knowledge and sector changes are shared easily and frequently among the community of practitioners and stakeholders increase in peer-led training and support
	PR-3 Creative Forces Events <i>Developing opportunities and self-efficacy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a programme of primary and secondary outreach events delivered at universities around the UK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attendees have increased awareness of the opportunities offered by universities attendees have increased their aspirations regarding post-16 progression and university education children and young people from Armed Forces families have enjoyed a positive first-hand experience of a university.
RESEARCH OUTCOMES	RE-1 New Research <i>Building the knowledge base</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contribution of a body of original research to the knowledge-base -evidence briefings produced by the SCiP Alliance to reference and share updated knowledge on a range of pertinent topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased awareness of issues relating to the educational progression of Service children increased understanding of issues which were not previously the focus of research
	RE-2 Online Research Repository <i>Disseminating high-quality research</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> online repository providing free access to high-quality research from both academic and non-academic sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> researchers increase the visibility and profile of their work the community can more easily locate and access high-quality research evidence to inform their practice
	RE-3 Dissemination of the Evidence Base at Events <i>Increasing community awareness of research</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the SCiP Alliance regularly presents the latest research evidence at a range of community events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased awareness in the sector of the issues affecting children and young people from Armed forces families stakeholders are empowered to build a strong case for action that is underpinned by high-quality evidence
POLICY OUTCOMES	PO-1 Evidence and Insight to UK Government <i>A trusted voice for the sector</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the SCiP Alliance provides Government with sector expertise, the latest research findings, and thought leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contributed annually to the Armed Forces Covenant report contributed to the UK Government's <i>Living in Our Shoes</i> report (2020) provided an expert response to relevant calls for evidence (e.g. Armed Forces Bill 2021)
	PO-2 Changes to the UCAS application system <i>Working in partnership to bring about policy change</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCAS applicants will be able to indicate their Armed Forces family status on their application from 2023 onwards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> anticipated future increase of support available to university applicants and students from Armed Forces families the sector will be able to access tracking data from 2023 onwards to support knowledge of and research into the progression of young people from Armed Forces families through Higher Education and beyond
	PO-3 Further Education (FE) Policy Summit <i>Connecting practitioners and policymaker</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the SCiP Alliance organised and hosted a Policy Summit on the progression of Service children through FE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased dialogue and collaboration between relevant sector stakeholders initiation of workstream to embed post-16 support into the strategic planning of FE institutions

References

- 1 <https://www.scipalliance.org/about/information-page>
- 2 <https://www.scipalliance.org/research/2022-scip-alliance-community-consultation>
- 3 International Centre for Guidance Studies – University of Derby (2019) Supporting Service Children in School: An Organisational Improvement Framework. https://www.scipalliance.org/assets/files/SCiP-Alliance-Final-_Report_Dec19.pdf
- 4 International Centre for Guidance Studies – University of Derby (2019) SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit Enhancement Project. <https://www.scipalliance.org/assets/files/SCiP-Alliance-Thriving-Lives-Toolkit-Report-Mar-22.pdf>
- 5 Internal data
- 6 International Centre for Guidance Studies – University of Derby (March 2022) SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit: Implementation and Impact Evaluation. <https://www.scipalliance.org/assets/files/SCiP-Alliance-Thriving-Lives-Toolkit-Evaluation-Report-FINAL.pdf>
- 7 SCiP Alliance member consultation
- 8 https://www.scipalliance.org/assets/files/UoW-research-paper_Further-and-Higher-Progression-for-Service-Children.pdf
- 9 <https://www.scipalliance.org/research/2022-scip-alliance-community-consultation>
- 10 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/living-in-our-shoes-understanding-the-needs-of-uk-armed-forces-families>
- 11 SCiP Alliance (July, 2021) Young People from Armed Forces Families: Post-16 Education and Training. <https://www.scipalliance.org/assets/files/SCiP-Alliance-Post-16-report-November-2021-FINAL-screen.pdf>