

SCiP and SCISS: Collaboration between the Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance and the Service Children in State Schools (SCISS) network

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For many years, SCISS has been working to help service children in state schools to succeed in spite of the additional challenges of life in a military family.

The Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance is a partnership of organisations focused on improving outcomes through further and higher education for children from military families.

Both organisations support the sharing of effective professional practice, work to build a system that is conducive to service children's success, and are focused, ultimately, on the children themselves.

Achievements through Collaboration

The SCiP Alliance, as the name suggests, is a group of allies working for a common cause. Allies include local authorities, the families federations, colleges, universities, DfE, OFFA, MoD, devolved governments, and, of course, SCISS.

The relationship with SCISS is central to the Alliance's achievements to date

- SCISS NEAC member Amanda Rowley was a member of the project group that oversaw the research and practice work on which the Alliance is founded and is a founding member of the SCiP Alliance board;
- The SCiP Alliance board has developed a three-year strategy and further plans for research, sustainability, communication and engagement, monitoring;
- SCISS NEAC members represent SCISS on the Alliance's practice group, ensuring the needs of school professionals are reflected in the group's work to improve the scale and quality of practice, including the SCiP Alliance annual conference, the website, resource development, professional networking, and development;

And the SCiP-SCISS partnership is key to future success as the Alliance seeks to collaborate with SCISS on:

- Improving the scale and quality of support for schools from colleges and universities, and the strength of these relationships;
- Developing a simple method for gathering examples of effective practice, creating easy-to-use resources from them, and disseminating these to practitioners across the UK;
- Scaling up the promotion of research, resources and events to support teachers and other professionals on the SCiP Alliance website;
- A stakeholder consultation to establish a more robust account of the challenges, needs and priorities for teachers and other professionals supporting service children.

The SCiP Alliance was set up to address the gap between service children's good or above average GCSE attainment (in general) and the less than average progression to higher education. It's mission is to:

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

It is well established that aspirations for and understanding of higher education, whether negative or positive, can be developed in early education, with significant factors being established before formal education begins. Other research demonstrates that significant factors impacting on outcomes are amenable to influence in the adolescent years. As such, we are committed to taking a whole life-course approach, which considers the whole person and their whole journey. As the only large-scale school network focused on service children' education, and with such a strong track record, SCISS is not only a necessary partner for the Alliance, but also a natural one.