

Directorate for Children and Young People (DCYP) – SCISS Conference June 2018 briefing

Better Defence Estate Strategy

The 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.

It is a detailed, long term plan to reduce the defence built estate by 30% and provides a framework for the geographical lay down of our forces in the UK for at least a generation.

The strategy has been developed in partnership with military leaders and 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>

Service Pupil Premium

- i) 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>

- ii) The DfE guidance to schools on who should be recorded in the January census as Service children now clarifies that pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full time reserve service should be classed as Service children.
- iii) From September 2018 the Service child 'flag', which previously was only collected on the January census, will now appear on the October, January and May census. This will help provide greater information about Service child transfers, especially those which take place in year.

Final stages of drawdown of armed forces from Germany

DCYP/MoD is 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.

Links with the Department for Education

Strong working 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'/rebasings. Schools may well have noticed that the Service child 'flag' is now part of the CTF, previously the Service flag dropped off when a child changed school.

Other Service specific enhancements to the CTF will be in place for September 2018. There will be questions that relate to the Service child during times of mobility, deployment and separation and the opportunity for 'gaps in education' to be identified. Schools will also receive an alert, via the CTF, if a Service child joins their setting.

Links with Local Authorities

2017 saw the setting up of a working group that incorporated the 14 English Local Authorities that cater for the largest number of Service children. Initial focus has been on data, data sharing and the transition of Service children between LAs, especially those with SEND.

The Service Children's Progression Alliance (SCiP)

Through Winchester University we have seen the development of 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, initially focussing upon progression to H.E. The Service Children's Progression Alliance (SCiP) was formed in late 2016 and states as its aim:-

'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.'

www.scipalliance.org/

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.

Contact details

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