

SCiP Alliance Board – Looking for Members and a Co-Chair

July 2022

Summary

The Service Children's Progression Alliance (SCiP Alliance) Board leads the Alliance and is responsible for achieving **the Alliance's mission:**

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.

A recent re-shaping exercise established a new Management Group to be responsible for our annual planning, delivery and evaluation work, so that the Board could focus on the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the Alliance.

We are now looking for up to three exceptional and highly regarded individuals to join the Board and enhance its skills, strategic thinking and leadership, and networks, especially in relation to the following areas:

- Financial management and fundraising
- Policy development and influencing
- Communications and external relations
- Strategic leadership and governance.

We are also looking to appoint a Co-Chair to work alongside the existing Chair appointed by the Alliance's host organisation, the University of Winchester.

The Co-Chair will bring exceptional leadership skills and experience at Board level and have a strong national reputation. The Alliance is a diverse community of committed stakeholders from throughout the UK and beyond, all of whom share in making the Alliance successful. The Co-Chair will be committed to and able to add considerable value to our ambitions to see the SCiP Alliance and the community that makes it grow sustainably in scale and engagement, and in its impact on the lives of the children of serving and ex-Armed Forces personnel (Service children).

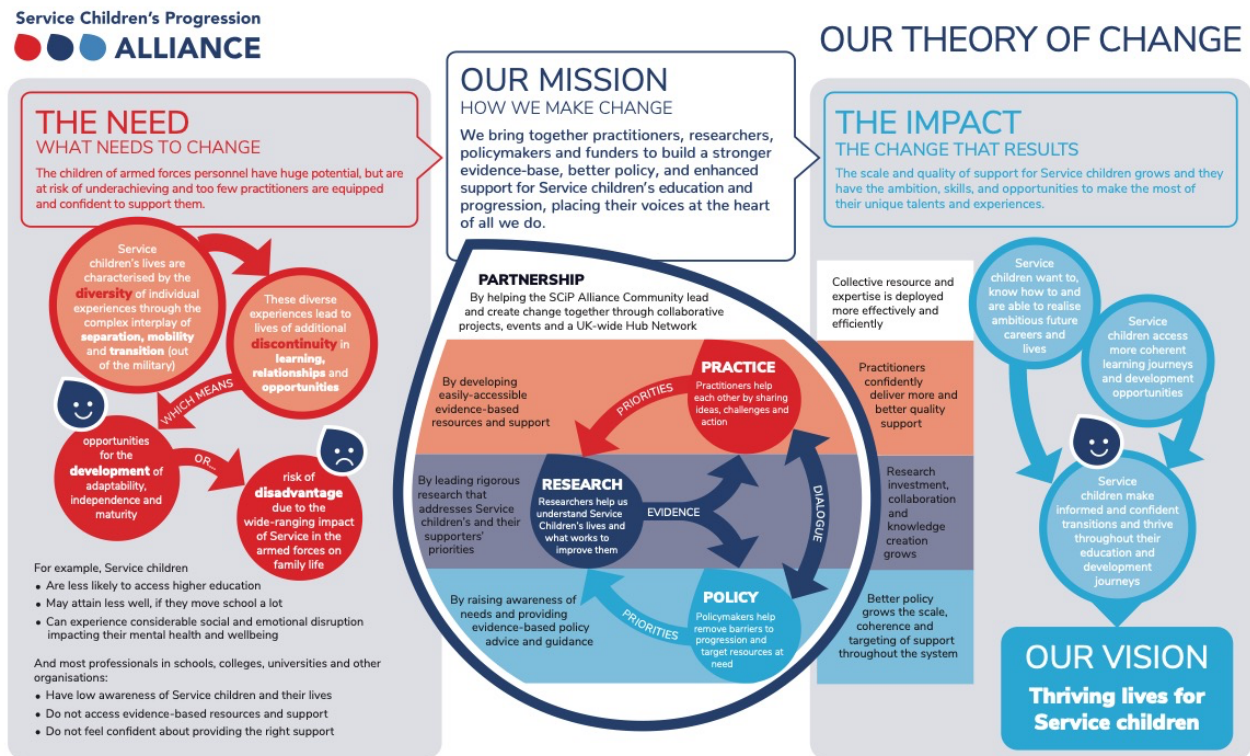
Individuals interested in joining the Board and/or the role of Co-Chair should review the content of this call document and contact the SCiP Alliance Director for an initial discussion before considering submitting a formal letter of application (up to two sides of A4). Shortlisted candidates will meet the Co-Chair and Director, as well as Board members, before final decisions are made.

The deadline for this call is Monday, 12 September 2022.

Introducing the SCiP Alliance

Theory of Change

Our [Theory of Change](#) tells the story of why we do what we do: both the evidence for action and the impact we want for all Service children.



The Need

Like all children, the children of serving and ex-Armed Forces personnel are unique and have huge potential. But their lives can have complex additional challenges. Evidence suggests this can have both positive and negative effects for Service children. And research with professionals tells us there's a need for high-quality, evidence-based resources and support, so they can have confidence that their support will enhance Service children's lives.

Our Mission

Our Stakeholder Research told us people want to be better connected: with each other, with evidence and with support. So, we lead a UK-wide Hub network that connects practitioners, researchers, policy-makers and funders. We develop easily-accessible, evidence-based resources and support. We lead, commission and collate global research to build stronger evidence for action. We help policy professionals understand the needs of Service children and their supporters.

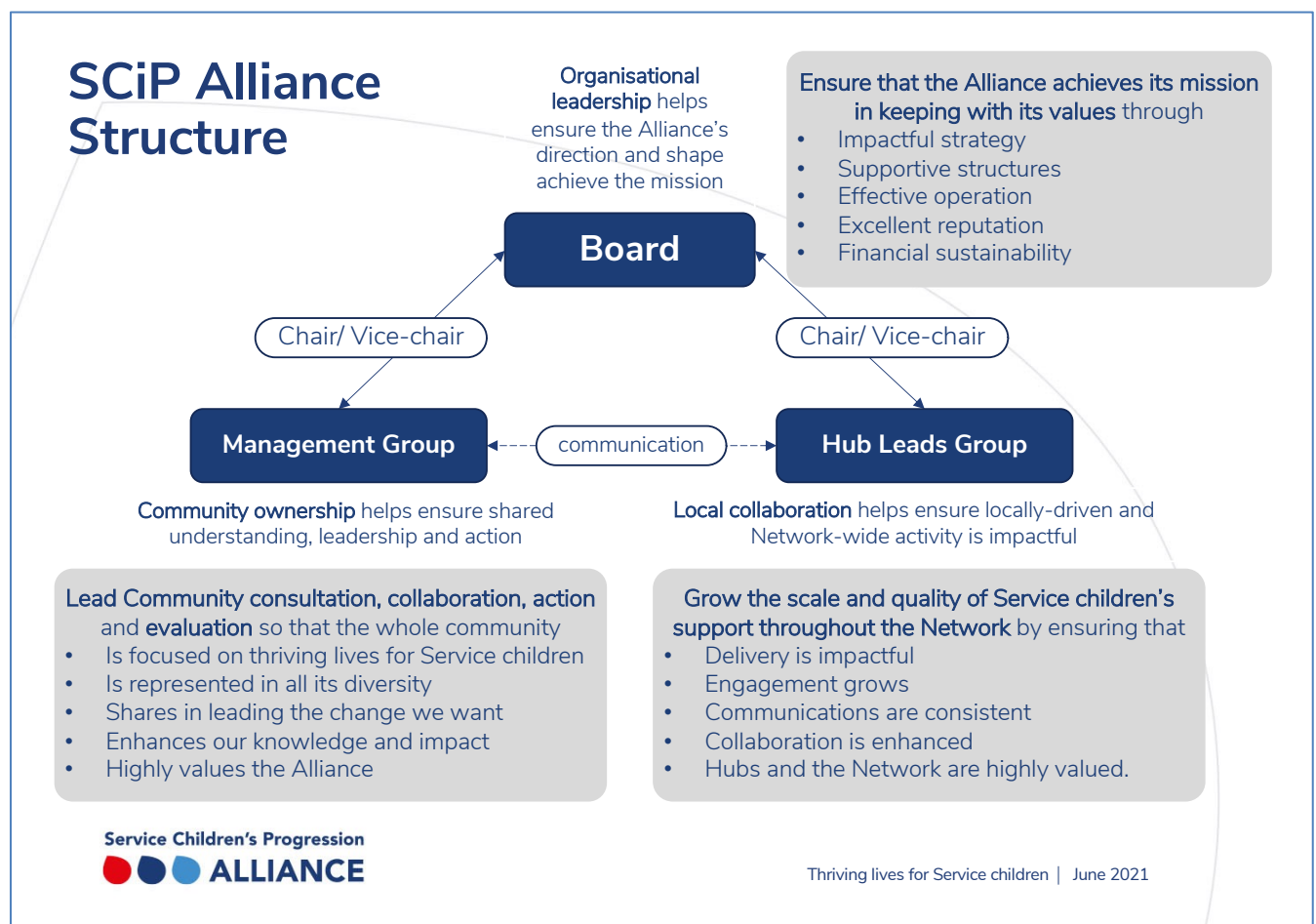
The Impact

We want to see the scale and quality of support for Service children grow. Better collaboration, more research, and evidence-based practice and policy will lead to more opportunities and a more coherent learning journey for Service children, and help them take full advantage of both.

SCiP Alliance Structure – Leading Together

Our annual conference in 2021 explored the theme of Leading Together, through which we intend to continue to enhance the impact of coherent, collective approaches to the most pressing, common challenges. You can read about Leading Together [here](#) and view the conference programme and outputs [here](#).

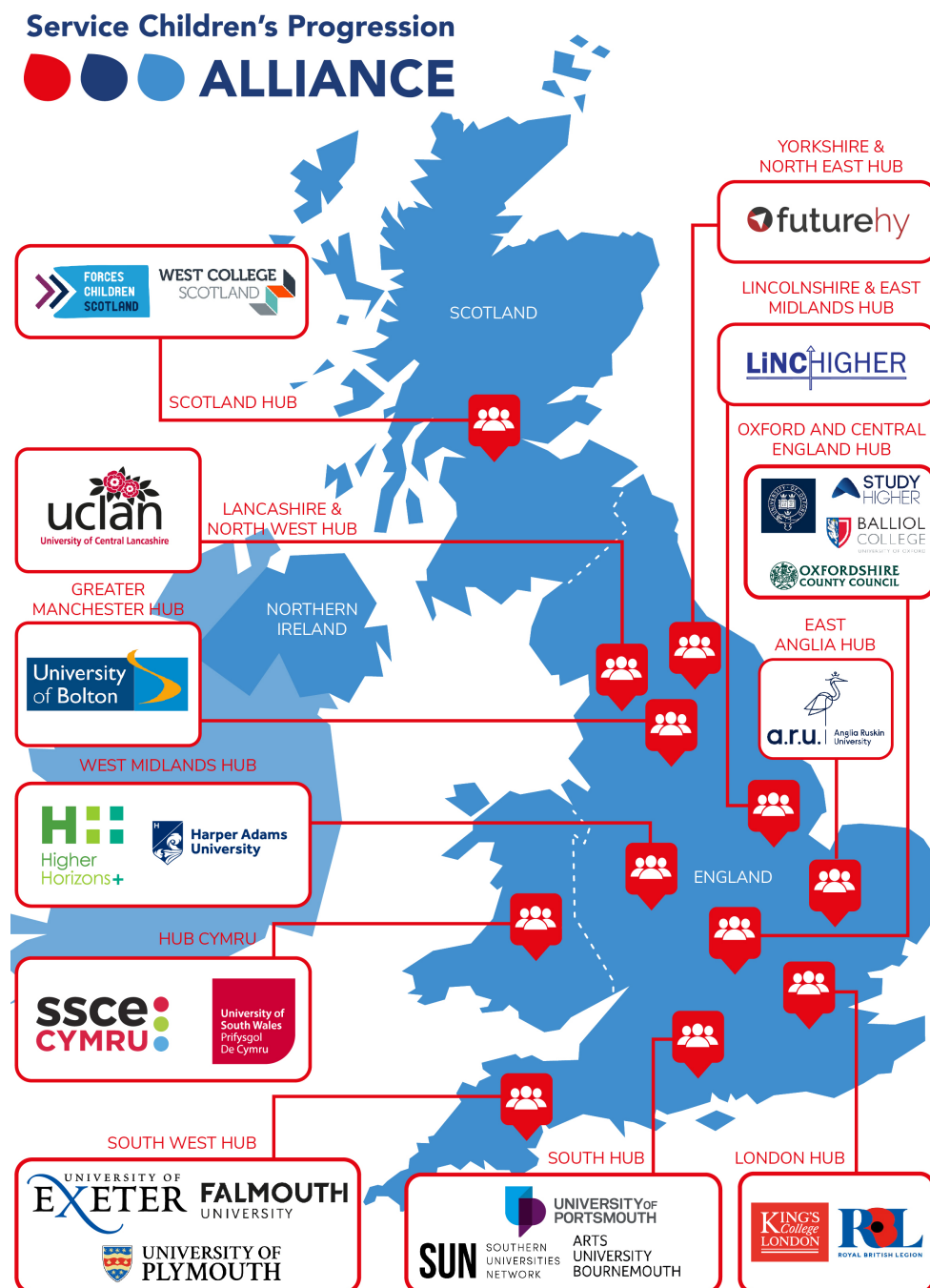
Following a reshaping exercise in 2020-21, the SCiP Alliance is led and managed by three groups with distinct and complementary roles. All Alliance members form part of the SCiP Alliance Community in which the Board, Management Group and Hub Leads Group fulfil specific purposes intended to work together to support the achievement of the vision and mission.



Service Children's Progression ALLIANCE

Our UK-Wide Hub Network

At the core of the SCiP Alliance is the network of hundreds of professionals from diverse organisations working to improve outcomes for Armed Forces children. This network is supported by 12 Hubs focused on helping organisations do together what they cannot do alone. By collaborating to understand local priorities, identify and deliver solutions, and share challenges and effective practice, organisations enhance their impact of their work through their collective efforts. You can read more about the Hub Network on our website, [here](https://www.scipalliance.org).



Research and Practice Projects

Some challenges are best solved at a national level either because they relate to national issues or the scale of investment or potential benefit makes a coordinated Alliance-wide approach appropriate. So, in response to priorities identified in the Hub Network or through the work of our Management Group and Board, research and practice projects are developed, but always with a clear understanding of their contribution to our mission and current priorities. You can read more [here](#).

The Board Purpose and Membership

The SCiP Alliance Community brings together hundreds of professionals from across the UK and beyond to collaborate on our shared vision of Thriving Lives for Service Children. Our theory of change summarises the reason for the Alliance's existence, the action we take to address evidenced need, and the change we seek through that action.

Our re-shaping the Alliance exercise has enabled the Board to focus its attention on the long-term success of the Alliance, so that our direction and shape achieve the mission:

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.

The Board's purpose is to:

1. Ensure that the Alliance achieves its mission in keeping with its values through:
 - Impactful strategy
 - Supportive structures
 - Effective operation
 - Excellent reputation
 - Financial sustainability

To this end, the Group shall:

2. Provide collaborative leadership for the achievement of the SCiP Alliance's mission;
3. Be responsible for the development and achievement of the SCiP Alliance's strategy;
4. Support, challenge and advise the SCiP Alliance staff team;
5. Champion the vision and mission of the Alliance and operate in accordance with its values.

In support of these responsibilities, the terms of reference require Board members to "faithfully and pro-actively:

1. Use their experiences and skills to act in the best interests of the Alliance;
2. Contribute to the Board in ways that add value to the collective efforts of the Board and the Alliance and are in accordance with the Alliance's values;

3. Avoid, where possible, and declare to the Board any conflicts of interest;
4. Give sufficient time and energy to the role to discharge these duties appropriately.”

Further, members must be committed to and skilled in working in ways that fit with what is important to the Alliance and its members. Members will value and operate in ways consistent with:

- Collaborative decision-making
- Consensus-building
- Asset-based approaches
- Leading by example
- Integrity

Key Skills and Experience

Board Members

We are now looking for up to three exceptional and highly regarded individuals to join the Board and enhance its skills, strategic thinking and leadership, and networks, especially in relation to the following areas:

- Financial management and fundraising
- Policy development and influencing
- Communications and external relations
- Strategic leadership and governance.

Successful candidates will be exceptional professionals with strong track records at board/governance level. They will be highly regarded and respected by peers and will add significant value to the Board through their specific skills and experience, as well as through their networks and ability to engage effectively with key senior sector stakeholders as ambassadors for the Alliance and the sector.

We are particularly interested in hearing from those with lived experience of military and/or military family life, but also recognise the value of entirely fresh perspectives. Regardless, Board members are key ambassadors for the Alliance and will be committed to our vision of thriving lives for Service children and highly motivated to make a tangible difference on their behalf.

The Board must meet at least three times annually, but may meet more. Current plans are for online quarterly meetings, plus one full-day, face-to-face session each year. Expenses for attendance at face-to-face sessions can be reclaimed in accordance with the expenses policy of the University of Winchester, the host organisation.

Co-Chair

We are also looking to appoint a Co-Chair to work alongside the existing Chair appointed by the Alliance's host organisation, the University of Winchester.

The Co-Chair will bring exceptional leadership skills and experience at Board level and have a strong national reputation. The Alliance is a diverse community of committed stakeholders from throughout the UK and beyond, all of whom share in making the Alliance successful. The Co-Chair will be committed to and able to add considerable value to our ambitions to see the SCiP Alliance and the community that makes it grow sustainably in scale and engagement, and in its impact on the lives of the children of serving and ex-Armed Forces personnel (Service children).

Individuals interested in joining the Board and/or the role of Co-Chair should review the content of this call document and contact the SCiP Alliance Director for an initial discussion before considering submitting a formal letter of application. Shortlisted candidates will meet the Co-Chair and Director, as well as Board members, before final decisions are made.

Get in touch

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Shortlisted candidates will meet the Co-Chair and Director, as well as Board members, before final decisions are made.

Please contact the SCiP Alliance Director, Philip Dent, to arrange an initial conversation.

philip.dent@winchester.ac.uk

The call for members will close on Monday, 12 September 2022.