

## Thriving Lives Conference Round 2020-22

The Service Children's Progression Alliance's round of conferences was funded by the Education Support Fund and run by the Alliance's UK-wide network of research-practice Hubs. The events brought schools together to explore the Thriving Lives toolkit and the available evidence and opportunities, to make connections and to share ideas and initiatives. Events also included delegates from universities, colleges, local authorities, the MoD and military charities.

### 1. Example agenda

#### AGENDA

PART 1 – WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2020 (0900-1200)	
09:00	Registration and time to complete ice-breaker quiz
09:10	Welcome and introduction
<b>Session 1: Understanding Service children's lives and how the Alliance helps</b>	
09:25	Service children, the SCiP Alliance and The Thriving Lives Toolkit
09:50	Discussion
10:10	Personal reflection 1
10:15	Break
<b>Session 2: How schools can use the Thriving Lives Toolkit to help Service children thrive?</b>	
10:30	Introduction to the Thriving Lives Toolkit
10:45	Applying the seven principles of effective support – reflecting together
11:55	Personal reflection 2
12:00	Close

PART 2– TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2020 (0900-1200)	
09:00	Registration and time to share ice-breaker quiz answers
<b>Session 3: Who can help schools help Service children thrive, and how?</b>	
09:10	National support organisations
09:25	Local military context and allies
09:40	The SCiP Alliance Hub and introduction to the workshops
09:55	Personal reflection 3
10:00	<b>Workshop 1*</b>
10:45	Break
11:00	<b>Workshop 2**</b>
11:45	Personal reflection 4
11:55	Conference closing remarks
12:00	Close

*WORKSHOP 1 CHOICES	
A:	<b>Effective peer support</b> (Principle 5) Sara Lamerton, Military Kids' Club Heroes National Coordinator Jono Madeley, Leadership Adviser, Education, Participation and Skills, Plymouth City Council
OR	
B:	<b>Levelling Up: Helping Service children make the jump to further &amp; higher education</b> (Principle 3, 5, 7) Louisa Dobson, Outreach Hub Officer, FutureHY York and North Yorkshire
**WORKSHOP 2 CHOICES	
C:	<b>Supporting Service children with SEND</b> (Principle 2, 3, 4, 6) Russell Collier, Principal Education Officer, Director of Children & Young People (DCYP)
OR	
D:	<b>Supporting a clear approach through Governance</b> (Principle 1, 6) Grahame Shepherd, former HT of Le Cateau Primary School, Catterick, and current governor

### 2. Events

Eleven SCiP Alliance Hubs organised conferences between November 2020 and February 2022.

Yorkshire and NE	18 and 24 November 2020, 09.00 - 12.00
Lancashire and NW	17 and 25 March 2021
South	21 April 2021, 9-4
South West	16 June 2021, 9-1

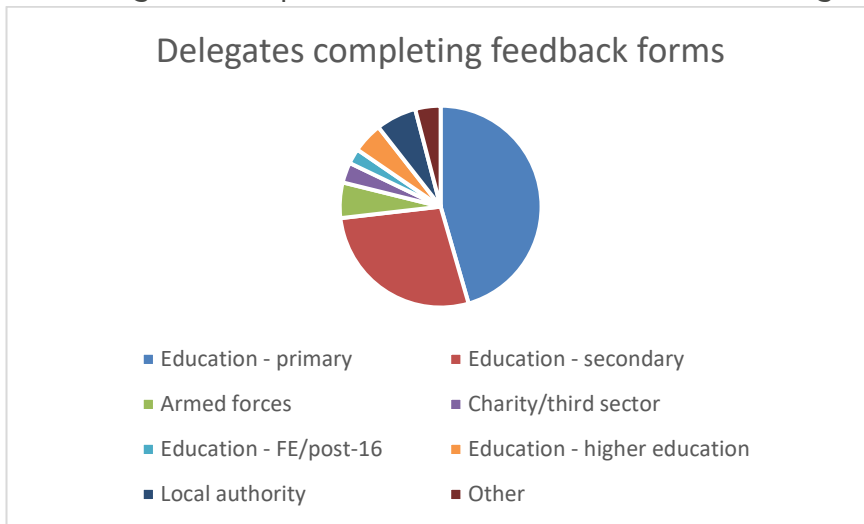
West Midlands	27 April 2021, 9-4
Oxfordshire and central England	8 and 23 June 2021, 15.45 - 16.45
Scotland	3 and 10 June 2021, 2021 2021
London	28 June 2021, 3-5.30pm plus on demand content
Cymru	7 December and 14 December 2021, 15.30 - 17.30
Lincolnshire and East Midlands	10 November, 10.00 - 12.00 and 16 November, 24 November, 1 December 6 December and 14 December 2021 16.00 - 17.00
East Anglia	28 February 2022, 15.30 - 17.30

### 3. Delegates

830 Delegates registered and received the delegate booklet and the Thriving Lives toolkit. 677 delegates attended an event and recordings of proceedings were viewed 242 times.

### 4. Delegate feedback

106 delegates completed evaluation forms after attending.



53% of delegates who responded rated the overall event as excellent, 47% rated it as good.

Delegates rated their learning against the conference outcomes as follows:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I feel equipped to use the Thriving Lives Toolkit	41%	58%	1%	
I now feel confident to use the 7 principles self-assessment tool	42%	57%	1%	

I now feel confident to use the related online professional development resources	34%	59%	7%	
I now understand the potential of the Thriving Lives Toolkit to support Service children	54%	45%	1%	
I now know who I could contact to help develop my work with Service children	40%	58%	2%	
I now understand more about the educational experiences of Service children	43%	65%	1%	

### Delegates learnt:

- That the Toolkit can guide us through our journey with service families. Thank you.
- That there is a strong community to access and the toolkit is the way forward.
- Need to run the toolkit asap to evaluate current provision and identify actions!
- The associated CPD will be very useful for taking current staff forward and inducting staff.
- Importance of developing school and family links.
- Effectiveness of having a set of principles and joined up working with all schools
- The potential to work in partnership with local schools to implement the toolkit.
- That there is greater support for service families than I'd realised.
- Fabulous idea, with well worded research and papers to back up the need.
- That a one size fits all approach to service children won't work
- The key is careful communication (including listening!) to pupils and parents.
- Collaborate with my colleagues in school, and by using other organisations signposted too.
- Great to check what you know but learn about new networks that you were unaware of.
- The Thriving Lives toolkit is brilliant.
- Importance of school staff awareness.
- Schools shouldn't be complacent.
- SC need to be recognised for the positive aspects that they can bring to the school.
- That we are not alone and there is lots of help for our pupils, staff and parents.
- the importance of supporting the families and children through transition.
- Seeing through the lens of a service pupil is key to unlocking success.
- That there is a strong community to access and the toolkit is the way forward.
- Listening to service children's voices and communicating this to staff and community.
- The importance of a whole school approach.
- Use the tool kit- it will help give direction and ensure good practice.
- That the child should be in the centre of all decisions, to see it through the lens of the child.
- I need to involve parents more to better support children in school.
- Importance of collaborating across networks and sharing good practice.
- There is a wealth of support and resources out there for schools to help our service families.
- Fantastic ideas of what I can implement in school and where I can go for more information.

- One of the most powerful ways for us to support schools with this topic is by connecting them with other schools so they can support and share good practice.
- That we need to do more!!
- The pupil perspective eg, when parents return, not always elation as one would assume.
- More needs to be done by my setting and further training is needed.
- How to investigate the toolkit and the service children's location in our authority.
- There is a wealth of information out there to support schools.
- Thriving Lives Toolkit will help me to identify children, upskill staff and improve support.
- There is a gap in resources for Early Years.
- The toolkit that will support with structuring areas are strengths and areas for improvement.
- The importance of making service children feel welcome and how to build their confidence.
- All Service children are different, there are systemic things which need to be sorted out.
- I feel more confident to action points on our toolkit forward and address needs effectively.
- The importance of reflecting on current support and looking at ways improving it.

#### Participants liked:

- The voices of the children x6.
- Detailed introduction to the toolkit / how to use the toolkit effectively in school x14.
- Time to reflect and run through the actual toolkit x10.
- Clarification on how to use the TLT.
- The 4 Ds of Service Children x2.
- Signposting to other organisations for support x3.
- Hearing about support that can be accessed and drawn upon when needed. I will be advising all the service families with a SEND child to register with the CEAS.
- Great information about how to support Service families and their children.
- The Thriving Lives Toolkit looks very useful for monitoring and improving provision.
- Speaking to other professionals in the break-out/interactive session X15.
- A flexible tool, young people can work alongside staff to embed it in the school setting.
- Very informative, a lot of the ideas in the toolkit we do but not formally.
- The chat function with ideas/current practices from people.
- The interactive functions were really engaging/The menti surveys were a great addition x3.
- The tool looks very clear and will definitely use.
- Having a concrete resource to refer back to.
- Time to read and explore the resources in a time friendly way.
- Good to have a clear guide in front of you to reference and use, good tool to share.
- Everything x5.
- The toolkit and online resources that can be accessed for further CPD. X3
- The Levelling Up Workshop was great.
- SEND was very informative. MKC Heroes is a great project.

- The range of knowledge and expertise available.
- Lots of reflection about how we cater for our service children and their families in school.
- The chance to hear what others are doing and to compare the experiences.
- The role of CEAS.
- Very informative/ information and resources from speakers x12.
- Going through the 7 principles with others x3.
- Hidden Young Carers workshop and resources (I was unaware of the assessment) .
- The lots of information but in understandable chunks.
- The session on making it work in school was particularly useful.
- I was jotting ideas down in every session.
- Timing for sessions and timing of breaks, build-up of information throughout the day .
- Getting contact details of charities and organisations.
- Refreshing my knowledge and the useful discussion in the breakout rooms.
- The networking element x3.
- Hearing from schools put into a 'real life' context for me.
- Well researched and practical, real life advice, supported by educational research.
- Great introduction for schools with low military numbers and less experience of military life
- Breaking misconceptions: gaining an understanding that the homecoming can be just as hard, if not harder, than the going away.
- Links to docs and other agencies.
- The wide-reaching nature of the speakers.
- The presentation from QVS - youth voice aspect. Jill's presentation x4.
- Listening to the young people who are from a military family.
- Honestly, time to stop and think, hear from professionals and young people.
- Speaking with likeminded professionals.

What participants suggested could be improved:

- Thought it all worked well/ nothing /professional x16.
- Technological issues x2.
- Technological issues but they were understandable and quickly resolved x5.
- More detailed information of breakouts so participants are better prepared to share.
- Breakouts perhaps need a little more direction to establish virtual relationships quickly.
- Send the guidance document when the ticket is booked.
- I was printing the handbook last-minute, as the conference was beginning
- The handbook we used throughout the conference for evaluation wasn't editable for me
- Let the presentations run longer after technical issues.
- The resources were PDFs this made it difficult to work on and save.
- Break out with other colleagues from the same school phase would have been useful x2.
- An example of completed toolkit with figures to reinforce its result.

- It was incredibly slick!
- Longer sessions / over two days, to enable longer breaks/breakouts x3.
- More case studies from primary schools please.
- It was brilliant but I missed half of a session because I lost my signal
- Felt a bit rushed, the surveys were annoying
- I would love to develop work on the toolkit in support of early years
- Clearer information about the pre learning -I may have just missed that
- Enjoyed the format and the pace was good
- Consider incorporating Early Years
- Looking forward to face-to-face conferences again

What participants will do next:

- Discuss with SLT x16.
- Share the toolkit with SPP champion/pastoral team x5.
- Share knowledge with colleagues.
- Access the CPD resources.
- Look at a school's online Worry Box idea that was mentioned in the chat.
- Share my thoughts with my colleagues in Portsmouth, Exmouth and Scotland.
- Look at the SCiP Alliance website for resources x6.
- I will use this to frame our strategy in school.
- Really want to kick start pupil voice type activities.
- Use the toolkit in school x16.
- Share with governors x2.
- Ensure the child's voice is more visible in school x3.
- Contact local school Heads.
- Take information back to school and log on for part 2.
- Share details with my colleagues nationally.
- Discuss how we support the implementation of the toolkit within our team and beyond
- Discuss how this can be followed up by LA colleagues in schools.
- Discuss with colleagues in other areas of the UK looking at how we as pastoral workers can help schools support children in a more positive and active way.
- Look at my role and how I can work better in partnership with others.
- Work through the toolkit, after first session I have shared the tool kit with my SLT and hope to look at some collaborative work.
- Look through resources offered in more detail to refresh knowledge, learn more. Work with schools and strongly encourage use of the TLT for staff training. Support in the delivery of the TLT in schools
- Watch the videos from the workshops I was unable to attend and then thoroughly review the materials and create a plan of action.

- Already started to create a services strategy using the principles.
- Feedback to colleagues and refer to materials mentioned.
- Review ways of developing ways of listening to the service children and opportunities for pupil voice. Possible cluster opportunities.
- Meet the service children to discuss their individual needs and circumstances.
- Keep the handbook and refer back as needed.
- Reflect and implement what I have learnt to continue to support our Service families.
- My Safeguarding Lead (who also attended) and I are going to complete the toolkit and put together an action plan.
- Organise meeting with Head Teacher and create our next steps for developing as a school that effectively enables Service Pupils to 'thrive'
- Talk to SLT about Young Carers and Service Champions roles.
- I'm looking forward to engaging with lots of the agencies signposted today.
- Speak with SLT and define my role as Forces champion.
- Get in touch with parents.
- Review my first toolkit in the light of how things might have changed post-covid.
- Collaborate across networks.
- I will be focusing on section 4 - (Transition) as a priority for our school.
- Put services children and families in touch with each other.
- Put everything I have learnt into practice.
- Refresh my staffs knowledge through a series of staff meetings.
- Reinvigorate our provision for Service Children by reintroducing our club and also starting up parent coffee mornings/wine evenings as soon as we can
- Promote the toolkit and use our network to connect and guide other schools.
- Implement change!
- Explore how we can develop support and training for our Early Years Providers.
- Ensure toolkit is used by my schools (as Governor).
- Join the hub!
- Audit where are schools are in supporting services children -use of tool kit
- Research accessing further funding to support the pastoral needs of services pupils.
- Request further training.
- Read, read, read about support for service children. Follow the links given.
- Speak to SLT
- Discuss the toolkit with other staff members
- Review materials and actions with team and get in contact with SCIP London
- I am aware that an Amy CDW colleague is exploring the possibility of working with young people to develop a training package to support teaching staff - I feel better informed to engage in this area of work.

- Retain details to as evidence of engagement in education sector for ERS scheme in my capacity as REED for Greater London RFCA.
- Make contact with a few of the folks from the meeting.
- Complete the toolkit and keep reviewing it to improve the support that we give.
- Meet with my family liaison officer and complete the toolkit.
- Reiterate with staff the differing life experiences of service children.