

Creative Forces Day knowledge sharing for practitioners

22 March 2021

This document records a discussion convened by the South Hub lead, bringing together partners planning Creative Forces events in summer 2021 across the UK. Participants shared plans and explored how to adapt the national evaluation to the diversity of responses to the need to go online this year. Participants also took the opportunity to share tips and ideas both formally in the meeting and through posting links and advice in the chat.

Plans across the network

Collaboration between Yorkshire and North East and Lincolnshire and East Midlands Hubs

A programme of online events across the region, beginning with the Lincolnshire and East Midlands Thriving Lives conference. Teachers attending that conference will be encouraged to register their school for an online Creative Forces event with an offer of further CPD building on the conference content. Creative Forces will take place towards the end of June and will involve opportunities for students to mix and share experiences in online breakout rooms. Both student and teacher Creative Forces attendees will receive a follow on support pack. Schools will be the gate keepers to the young people and partners are exploring how they could adapt existing Uni Connect safeguarding and GDPR processes to include under 13 year olds.

Scotland Hub

Abertay University have created two social media films incorporating footage from their 2019 on-campus Creative Forces event - one for staff, one for students:

Staff video:

<https://youtu.be/CiieJiF0iAY>

Pupil Video:

<https://youtu.be/0Jxv2VbYbmw>

And are exploring an online event in collaboration with Napier and Herriot Watt Universities.

Oxfordshire and Central England Hub

Thriving Lives CPD webinars (8th and 23rd June) will be followed by three linked student webinars aimed at Y10 offering taster sessions and progression and wellbeing support, perhaps with a small group from one main target school on campus but certainly with a fourth follow-up webinar.

The student voice element will be captured separately through a survey posing some of the questions participants might have considered in a face-to-face session as well as some HE-related attitudinal questions.

Bath Spa University

Hoping to bring a small group on campus later in the summer or at least to visit the schools to try and retain the experiential side. Considering alternative approaches to the fostering connection element of

Creative Forces, such as workshops within school or linking Service children from different schools via a pen pal scheme.

Liverpool Uni Connect partnership

The partnership had planned their first event last year and would like to go ahead this year but have found locating Service children dispersed around the city's schools to be a challenge. Meeting participants offered advice including contacting local authorities and regional bases.

Hub Cymru

A virtual event will take place on April 17th for KS3 Service children, their families, and teachers. Initial plans to include a virtual tour of campus have been put on hold as current circumstances meant the team was unable to carry out the filming of the VR footage. The event will be interactive for participants by including the following:

- Activities and information for Service children and their family
- Interactive breakout challenges
- A Q&A session with current students who are part of an Armed Forces family
- Short introductions to charities and support organisations that can help Service families
- A professional development session for teachers of Service children.

South Hub

The South Hub Thriving Lives CPD conference will be on 21st April. The hub plans to move away from the Creative Forces model of offering school based workshops and additional staff CPD this year, focussing instead on developing a pilot virtual family event. Participants will be recruited not only through schools but also through engagement with bases and with the community. The timing, the weekend at the end of May half term, will allow families to participate. Content generation, such as family reflection videos, lends itself to creating outputs in the run up to Armed Forces day at the end of June. A mix of live content (such as a live Q&A) and pre-recorded resources (such as 'archaeology and chocolate') will be produced by students from Armed Forces families. A keynote speech and the opportunity to reflect and share as a family will provide hooks for engagement. The event will be promoted across the South of England but will be available to any families, both on the day and as an evergreen online resource. The meeting looked at how this model could potentially be taken up by others next year to support and engage families alongside the return to an on-campus event for students and teachers.

Ideas from other events for young people:

LINCHigher are exploring a partnership with NCS and local CDOs to develop a tailored NCS 14-16 programme on the region's bases.

Participants shared ideas from other events eg : <https://www.bishopg.ac.uk/events/a-virtual-fieldtrip-to-raf-thorpe-abbotts>

Timing:

June was felt to be particularly appropriate in England as secondary teachers will have completed most exam assessments by half term (deadline 18th June) so may have more capacity.

Feedback and evaluation

Rebecca Harland outlined the previous national evaluation (<https://www.scipalliance.org/assets/files/Creative-Forces-Evaluation-Report-2019-FINAL.pdf>). The on-campus events have a similar format in each location and the group is confident they will return to these in summer 2022. In the meantime, it was felt that the diversity of responses to the need to go online meant that a restrictive list of evaluation questions would have limitations this year.

Resolution: The group will gear up to a return to unified evaluation in 2022. In the meantime, Rebecca will capture each event's bespoke elements and both planned and unexpected outcomes but also the experience and effectiveness of the diverse online solutions and formats this year, creating a report about how the sector has adapted, focussing on UK-wide collaboration in support of this target group.

Next steps

Each participant will email some brief notes about their evaluation plans to Rebecca (r.harland@yorks.ac.uk), copied to katherine.lawrence@winchester.ac.uk.

Lauren will organise another meeting in June.