

Service Children's Progression



# From Evidence To Action

SCiP Alliance Conference

8 October 2018

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THRIVING LIVES FOR SERVICE CHILDREN

Led by



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WINCHESTER

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of Defence

## Welcome



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the second annual SCiP Alliance conference. We are especially privileged to be hosting today's event at the Victory Services Club, a Service charity supporting current and former service personnel and their dependents.

As we look forward, we must not lose sight of the many great achievements the Alliance has seen in the last two years, not least the recognition of Service children as a target group by the newly formed higher education regulator - the Office for Students (OfS). That said, there is still much more to be done to better understand why Service children are less likely to enter higher education and how we can collectively champion their outcomes. Key to this will be the continued multi-sector partnership working that has, thus far, enabled us to establish a national research hub and practice hubs across the UK. The theme of today's conference 'From Evidence to Action' acknowledges our shared accomplishments and stresses the importance of how we continue to drive change.

Feedback from the previous conference confirmed the value professionals place on having the opportunity to learn from and share with other educators, practitioners, researchers and policy makers on this agenda. I hope that you find today's conference of equal value and are able to make the most of the keynotes and workshops on offer.

As ever, I would like to thank you for your contributions to the conference and for supporting the progression of Service children.

Sarah-Louise Collins  
SCiP Alliance Board Chair  
Director of Widening Participation, University of Winchester

# Service Children's Progression ALLIANCE

The SCiP Alliance brings stakeholders together 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 led by the University of Winchester and funded by the Ministry of Defence. The Alliance works through its board, practice group, research group and growing network of hubs throughout the UK.

Board chair: Sarah-Louise Collins, University of Winchester

Practice group chair: Dr Sally Griffin, Bath Spa University

Research group chair: Dr Adrian Barton, University of Winchester

Director: Philip Dent

Manager: Katherine Lawrence

Research Development Officer: Michael Hall

Speak to one of us today or get involved at [www.scipalliance.org](http://www.scipalliance.org).

The SCiP Alliance's success is made possible through the support and engagement of a wide range of allies, including:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Army Families Federation                            | Ofsted                                     |
| Association of Colleges                             | RAF Families Federation                    |
| Bath Spa University                                 | Royal Caledonian Education Trust           |
| East Kent Colleges                                  | SCISS                                      |
| Hampshire County Council                            | Scottish Service Children's Strategy Group |
| Higher Education Outreach Network                   | Southern Universities Network              |
| Higher Horizons                                     | SSCE Cymru                                 |
| Higher York   | The Royal British Legion                   |
| King's College London                               | The University of Winchester               |
| MoD DCYP  | The University of Stirling                 |
| Naval Families Federation                           | University of Suffolk                      |
| Next Steps South West                               | UCAS                                       |
| Northern Ireland Service Children's Education Forum | Welsh Government                           |
| North Yorkshire County Council                      | Wessex Inspiration Network                 |
| Office for Students                                 | Widening Participation Collaborative Group |
|   | Wiltshire County Council                   |

## Agenda

|       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| 09.00 | Arrival and Registration. Exhibition and networking.  | Foyer   |
| 09.30 | <b>Welcome:</b> Philip Dent, SCiP Alliance Director   | Carisbrooke                                       |
| 9.45  | <b>Growing up as a Service child</b><br>Matt Blyton, Strategic Lead for Service pupils, North Yorkshire County Council  | Carisbrooke                                       |
| 10.05 | <b>Conference Keynotes:</b><br><br><b>The access and participation of children from military families</b><br>David Barrett, Assistant Director of Access and Participation, Office for Students<br><b>Towards the Education Inspection Framework 2019</b><br>Claire Brown, Specialist adviser for inspection policy and quality, Ofsted                     | Carisbrooke                                       |
| 11.05 | Break   | Bar   |
| 11.30 | <b>Research Keynote:</b><br><br><b>FE Provision for Service Children: What the data tells us</b><br>Alison Osborne, Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research, University of Northumbria<br>Dr Judith McCullough, University of Winchester   | Carisbrooke                                       |
| 12.00 | <b>Time to connect:</b> From Evidence To Action   | Carisbrooke                                       |
| 12.20 | <b>Panel Discussion</b><br>Where do we need better evidence to enable better support for Service children?<br>David Adams, Armed Forces Covenant Team<br>Dr Sally Griffin, Bath Spa University<br>Russell Collier, MoD DCYP<br>Moira Leslie, Royal Caledonian Education Trust<br>Millie Taylor, SSCE Cymru<br>Katie Balgarnie, student, Bath Spa University | Carisbrooke                                       |
| 13.00 | Lunch   | Bar   |
| 13.45 | Effective Practice Workshops (see detail on p5)   | Carisbrooke<br>Allenby<br>El Alamein<br>Trafalgar |
| 14.45 | Effective Practice Workshops (see detail on p5)   |   |
| 15.45 | Afternoon tea   | Bar   |
| 16.00 | <b>Conference learning: priorities for policy, research and practice</b><br>Phil Dent, SCiP Alliance Director and workshop chairs   | Carisbrooke                                       |
| 16.25 | <b>Closing remarks</b><br>Matt Bacon, Service child, undergraduate and Alliance board member  | Carisbrooke                                       |
| 16.30 | Conference closes   |   |

## Effective practice workshop options

|                   | Carisbrooke Hall  | Trafalgar  | El Alamein   | Allenby  |
|-------------------|---|--|--|--|
| <b>13.45</b>      | <p>Workshop A</p> <p><b>Tried and Tested: access and outreach activities for service children</b></p> <p>Louisa Dobson, NCOP FutureHY Outreach Hub Officer</p> <p>Lauren Smith-Birch, Access and Outreach Coordinator, University of Winchester</p> | <p>Workshop B</p> <p><b>Service children: The reasons behind whether or not they plan to attend university</b></p> <p>Dr Amy Warhurst, Lecturer in Psychology</p> <p>Sarah Twist, Research Assistant</p> <p>University of Winchester</p> | <p>Workshop C</p> <p><b>How Service children achieve at A-Levels</b></p> <p>Matthew Thorne, Personal Tutor and Medieval History Lecturer, The Sixth Form College Farnborough</p> | <p>Workshop D</p> <p><b>Are We Getting it Right? – the voice of Service and Veterans' children</b></p> <p>Jono Madeley, Leadership Adviser Health, Wellbeing and Citizenship</p> <p>Heather Ogburn MBE, Senior Education Adviser and Co-Founder of Military Kids Club Heroes</p> |
| <b>14.45</b>      | <p>Workshop E</p> <p><b>KCMHR: From military to families and beyond</b></p> <p>Dr Rachael Gribble, Lecturer in War &amp; Psychiatry</p> <p>Dr Daniel Leightley, Post-Doctoral Research Associate</p> <p>King's College London</p>                   | <p>Workshop F</p> <p><b>Using research findings to support AF young people: the experience of one 3rd sector charity</b></p> <p>Moira Leslie, Royal Caledonian Education Trust</p>   | <p>Workshop G</p> <p><b>Monitoring and supporting Service children in FE</b></p> <p>Martyn Rogers, Assistant principal Canterbury College part of the EKC Group</p>              | <p>Workshop H</p> <p><b>MoD youth voice and MoD led youth work in schools</b></p> <p>Rebecca Wakefield, Army Welfare Service Head of Community Support</p>   |
| <b>Chaired by</b> | <p>Sarah-Louise Collins</p> <p>Director of Widening Participation, University of Winchester</p>   | <p>Matt Blyton</p> <p>Strategic Lead for Service Pupils, North Yorkshire County Council</p>  | <p>Amanda Rowley</p> <p>Headteacher, The Wavell School</p>   | <p>Bridget Nicholson</p> <p>Director of Evidence and Strategy, Naval Families Federation</p>   |

## Keynote speakers

Matt Blyton, Primary School Lead Improvement Adviser & strategic lead for Service pupils, North Yorkshire County Council



Matt has 16 years of primary teaching and leadership experience, including 6 as Deputy Headteacher and 4 as teaching Head. He worked as a consultant for the MoD supporting Forces' schools overseas, before joining North Yorkshire's school improvement service in 2008. He leads a team of advisers to quality assure maintained primary schools and has strategic oversight of the education and welfare of the county's Service children. Matt is a member of SCISS and served as vice-chair for 3 years. SCISS is a consultative group of Headteachers, LA and MoD officers that advises policy makers, identifies good practice and proposes solutions to issues impacting the education and welfare of Service children.

David Barrett, Assistant Director of Access and Participation in the Office for Students, the independent regulator of higher education in England.

David's key strategic responsibility is access and participation plans, the main regulatory lever through which the OfS drives transformational improvement in equality of opportunity for students. He also leads the OfS's work to improve the higher education sector's use of effective, evidence-led, and impactful approaches to access and participation that underpin improved outcomes for students. Previously, David was Assistant Director of the Office for Fair Access, the former regulator of fair access to higher education, leading its strategic development and overseeing the development of the regulatory approaches that have now been adopted by the Office for Students when it took over this remit in 2018. Prior to joining OFFA, David developed widening participation policy at the Higher Education Funding Council for England, after spending the early years of his career working in university admissions.

Claire Brown, Her Majesty's Inspector Specialist Adviser for inspection policy and quality, Ofsted

Claire is one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of education. Claire held teaching and leadership positions in secondary schools and has been headteacher of two primary schools, including one judged outstanding



under her leadership. Claire worked for a local authority as a senior inspector and led a school direct teacher training partnership. She holds a national role as specialist adviser for inspection policy and quality and also oversees Ofsted's work with the Ministry of Defence regarding the inspection of their overseas schools.

Alison Osborne, Research Assistant and PhD Researcher, Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families  
Research Northumbria University @alisonk94



Alison currently works as a researcher in the Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research at Northumbria University. She is leading on the military families aspect of the Map of Need Project and working towards a PhD. With a background in psychology, Alison's PhD focuses on geographically dispersed military families and more specifically the psycho-social impact of intermittent separation.

Dr Judith McCullough, Director, Postgraduate Research Students, University of Winchester



Judith passed the first part of her adult life as a Fighter Control Officer (three-dimensional moving geometry) in the RAF and then crossed over the line, spending the next years as a Service wife and mother. After qualifying as a teacher, she taught at primary level before lecturing in education, then moving to Research and Knowledge Exchange. He focusses on postgraduate research methods and supervision while researching her two areas of interest: the education of the Service child and mathematics in education. Judith maintains active links with the RAF both in the Fighter Controllers' Association and as the mother of an Air Traffic Controller.

## Conference chair

Philip Dent, Director, Service Children's Progression Alliance

@\_phildent



Philip has led the SCiP Alliance from its inception and its subsequent growth throughout the UK. He began his career in the manufacturing industry before training as a teacher of philosophy. He has led organisations, research, change, innovation and more in schools, universities and regional and national multi-stakeholder education partnerships for over ten years. Philip has led research, policy and practitioner development in widening participation in universities, colleges and schools throughout England and in Australia. He was an adviser to the Office For Fair Access, focussing on the development of the current strategic plan and research strategy, and was Chief Executive of The Progression Trust before joining the University of Winchester in 2015 where he is now Head of Community Engagement, Social Justice and Impact.

## Conference closing remarks

Matt Bacon, undergraduate student, University of Winchester

Matt is in his third year studying Politics Philosophy and Economics.

"Growing up as one of the thousands of service children under the wing of the British Armed Forces, I have experienced living on the fine tightrope between the worlds of both the civilian and the soldier. The subtle yet significant consequences of this division have often been overlooked and this is why I am excited to contribute to The Service Children's Progression Alliance, as part of the voice of this diverse community."

## Panel

[David Adams, Policy Adviser, Armed Forces Covenant Team](#)

David has worked in the MOD since 2013, after 10 years in the Home Office. He manages delivery of the Covenant and writes the annual report accounting to Parliament on progress in policy initiatives and how this translates into providing support to the Armed Forces community. David takes a lead role on education, liaising with the MoD DCYP, as well as the Department for Education, to consider options for mitigating any disadvantage to Service children. He is a father to two boys aged seven and four and a governor at his local primary school.

[Dr Sally Griffin, Widening Participation Manager, Bath Spa University](#)

Sally has worked in higher education for over 20 years and currently leads Bath Spa University's widening participation and access activities. She is chair of the SCiP Alliance Practice Group.

[Moira Leslie, Education Manager for the Royal Caledonian Education Trust](#)

@RCET\_Scot

Moira Leslie is an Independent Education Consultant currently managing the RCET Education Programme. For 22 years she was Head of Raigmore Primary School in Inverness which has many Service children. Much of her career has been dedicated to supporting this cohort, particularly during transition and separation and she is passionate about the health and wellbeing of children and young people. She is currently chair of the SCiP Alliance Scotland Hub.

[Millie Taylor, All Wales Project Officer for Supporting Service Children in Education Wales](#)

@SSCECymru

Millie took over the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) SSCE Cymru programme at the beginning of 2018. The SSCE mission is to provide the best possible educational support to Service children in Wales. Working with schools, local authorities, Welsh Government, Service families, support organisations and charities. SSCE has produced many resources including toolkits for schools and parents, digital stories and films, school case studies and reports on Service children data in Wales and Service children with Additional Learning Needs experiences.

[Katie Baggorn](#)

Katie is from an armed forces family and is currently a Year 3 student studying Education at Bath Spa University.

[Russell Collier, Principal Education Officer, Directorate Children & Young People, MoD](#)

Russell's role encompasses many aspects of the educational support that the department provides Service children and their families, although his focus and responsibilities lie in the developing of stakeholder engagement and educational transition strategies. He is also responsible for the quality assurance of educational opportunities in ISODETS and Extra Command Areas as well as scoping new educational provision overseas.

Before joining the MoD in 2016 he had been a teacher in both the state and independent sectors for over 20 years, with his last post as a Headmaster of an independent school.



## Effective practice workshops

### **A: Tried and Tested: access and outreach activities for service children**

Louisa Dobson, NCOP FutureHY Outreach Hub Officer

Louisa works for the OFS funded National Collaborative Outreach Programme. Based in North Yorkshire, she plans, coordinates and delivers aspiration raising activities in schools, colleges and communities in 5 target wards. Louisa also leads the SCiP Alliance NE and Yorkshire hub.

Lauren Smith-Birch, Access and Outreach Coordinator, University of Winchester

Lauren Smith-Birch leads the coordination and delivery of the University of Winchester's UWIN Aspire programme for partner secondary schools in and around North Hampshire. She also leads on the University's work with Service children such as annual Creative Forces events.

This workshop will share ideas and insights into tried and tested activities for supporting Service children's progression to higher education and will be delivered by experienced outreach staff from the University of Winchester and NCOP FutureHY. The session will introduce two specific models of activity; 'Creative Forces' and 'The Festival of Friends', and will explore other ideas and opportunities. Delegates will develop their knowledge and understanding of how to work with this cohort, and start to develop a plan of action for working with military service students in their own institutions.

### **B: Service children: The reasons behind whether or not they plan to attend university**

Dr Amy Warhurst, Lecturer in Psychology, University of Winchester

Before lecturing at the University of Winchester, Amy worked as a Research Psychologist for Hampshire County Council's Children's Services department on issues such as bullying, the impact of academic interventions for looked after children, educational psychologists' support to military families, and emotional literacy interventions. Amy's recent projects include understanding the barriers/enablers for Service students considering attending university; a longitudinal, attitudinal, survey for military school pupils; maths anxiety in primary school pupils; effectiveness of support for young carers; and the resilience of newly qualified social workers.

This workshop will present the findings from pilot research which explored the decision making of Service and non-Service children in Year 10. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of research in this area and the issues that military children may face when deciding whether to attend university. There will be the chance to debate some of the controversies surrounding research of this nature and to contribute to further robust research into supporting Service children.

## Effective practice workshops

### C: How service children achieve at A-Levels

@matthutho

Dr Matthew Thorne, Personal Tutor and Medieval History Lecturer, The Sixth Form College Farnborough  
Matthew's recent EdD examined the aspirations and A-Level achievements of students from the armed forces. He teaches at a large Sixth Form College with a large number of students from forces families.

This workshop will examine the Level 3 achievements of students from the armed forces at a Sixth Form College and why these achievements may not be at the same level as non-forces children. Data will be used to highlight the differences that exist at the moment.

Participants will explore ideas on an achievement gap between forces and non-forces children.

### D: Are We Getting it Right? – The voice of Service and Veterans' children

Jono Madeley, Leadership Adviser Health, Wellbeing and Citizenship, Plymouth City Council

Mr Madeley has been an Education Adviser for 12 years. He has a background in therapeutic counselling and psychotherapy and has recently completed an MA in Education. He leads student democratic voice and citizenship for the city and is a national volunteer with MKCH.

This workshop will explore a range of methods to support and engage young people in consultation through the democratic process. In the context of research, following Donna Mertens' work on transformative approaches to educational research, we will explore ethnographical and other approaches that have a proven track record of engagement and rich data collection. We will also consider, through examples, effective methods of applying theory in practice.

Participants will gain an insight into developing effective methods of engagement with Service and Veterans' children and young people, to enable their profile, through their own voice, to be better understood by their peers, school staff and other service providers and their actual needs, as they define them, to be addressed.

### E: KCMHR: From military to families and beyond

Dr Rachael Gribble, Lecturer in War & Psychiatry and Dr Daniel Leightley, Post-Doctoral Research Associate

@rjgribble / @\_Dr\_Daniel / @kcmhr

Rachael Gribble is a Lecturer in War and Psychiatry at King's College London. Based in the King's Centre for Military Health Research, Rachael's work has focused primarily on public attitudes to the UK Armed Forces and the mental health and well-being of military spouses/partners and families.

This workshop will discuss family-based research in KCMHR and how this research could be used to understand more about the educational trajectories of children from military families.

The workshop will outline findings before an interactive discussion through which participants will gain an understanding of the KCMHR led family related research and how it can be translated into their own service and practice. It will encourage greater collaboration between researchers and those working with, and supporting, children and young people from military families.

## Effective practice workshops

### **F: Using research findings to support Armed Forces young people**

Moira Leslie, Education Manager for the Royal Caledonian Education Trust

@RCET\_Scot

[For Moira's bio please see p8]

This workshop will highlight how small- scale research projects have influenced the work of the RCET in supporting the learning journeys of young people from Armed Forces families.

Delegates will have the opportunity to hear about new, as yet unpublished PhD Research and the findings of smaller research projects, hear the voices of young people in the Teen Talks project and consider ways how the 3rd sector can support learning journeys.

### **G: Monitoring and Supporting Service Children in FE**

Martyn Rogers, Assistant principal Canterbury College part of the EKC Group

Martyn followed his passion and the footsteps of his father to complete 23 years in the Army attaining the rank of Senior Warrant Officer and seeing service in Germany, Northern Ireland, Canada, Belize, Bosnia, America, The Netherlands, Belgium, Ministry of Defence and various UK locations, often unaccompanied. Martyn joined Canterbury College in 2008. He is passionate about pastoral support and has maintained his military links, leading on support projects, working through the Armed Forces Covenant and attending military events. Martyn is married with three children and enjoys fitness training, DIY and travel and the odd breather that education affords him.

This workshop will demonstrate how the College identifies, monitors and reports on Service children and share practice and case studies of enrolment processes, post enrolment and monitoring, support services, mentor support and Student Risk Register, destinations and safeguarding. Participants will better understand how to adopt and embed identification of Service children, use MIS tools to report on and monitor students, support students whose mobility or care role may impact on studies, share data within GDPR guide-lines and enable a support network for Service children in FE and HE.

### **H: MoD Youth Voice and MoD led Youth Work in Schools**

Rebecca Wakefield, Army Welfare Service Head of Community Support and Head of Profession for Play, Youth and Community Development for DCYP

Rebecca is professionally qualified in youth and community development, with a 24-year career across Local Authority, 3rd Sector and the Ministry of Defence. Rebecca leads the British Army play, youth and community provision in the UK and Overseas and is responsible for MoD Youth Voice activities.

This workshop will provide an overview of MoD play, youth and community development and its role in mitigating the impact of Service lifestyle, introduce MoD Youth Voice and raised awareness of informal education supporting Service children and young people.

Participants will explore the impact of a Service lifestyle on young people and consider action to connect and communicate with young people in the context of their community and role.

## **The Victory Services Club**

The Club was founded in 1907 by Major Arthur Haggard to promote 'esprit de corps' within the military. Major Haggard wanted to bring together and support members of the Armed Forces after he witnessed destitute veterans in London after returning from the Second Boer War.

Today the club offers free membership to all Serving personnel and reserves and supports the armed forces community through charitable initiatives such as Respite and Welfare breaks for personnel wounded or injured on Operational Service, or for individuals who have encountered a significant welfare issue.

## **Wi-Fi login**

The Club's Wi-Fi network name is Victory

To log into the system you will be asked to enter a username or email address, please use; [visit@vsc.co.uk](mailto:visit@vsc.co.uk). The password is victory1907

## **Fire/Evacuation Procedures**

We are not expecting a fire alarm test; should the fire alarm sound please assemble at Connaught Square Gardens.

**The SCiP Alliance would like to thank the MoD for their funding and support and all it's stakeholders for their time, expertise, support and ideas.**

**We are very grateful for Bath Spa University's generous contribution towards this conference.**