Service Children's Progression
ALLIANCE

How to work with universities to improve service children's outcomes

@scipalliance

SCiP Alliance Discussion Group

Practice — How can schools work with Universities to improve children's education and wellbeing?
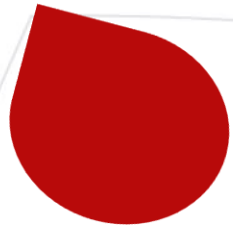
Research — What does research say about the experiences of Primary and Secondary pupils?

Policy — What needs to change to make the system more supportive for you?

Practice

How can schools work with Universities to improve children's education and wellbeing?

- **Creative Forces Days**
  - Develops aspirations for and awareness of higher education opportunities
  - Creates opportunities for reflection on life as a service child
  - Builds stronger relationships between service children (and their peers)
  - CPD for staff on effective support for service children
  - Service children's 'top tips' for staff on how to support them effectively
- **Festival of Friends**
  - Encourages innovation in support for service children
  - Rewards and celebrates effective practice
  - Raises awareness and builds engagement between stakeholders
- **Research**
- **Role models**
- **More… just ask**

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Creative Forces day:
For pupils from military service families in Hampshire

WINdow on HE   Hampshire County Council   THE UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER

SCiP Alliance Hubs – Allies in Action

Local

- Local hubs for local solutions
- Build relationships with key partners
- Share effective practice, common challenges, new ideas, and achievements

National

- Contribute to national priorities and practice
- Influence national (and UK-wide) policy
- Engage in new projects and research
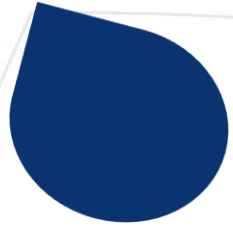
Contact

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What one practical resource / opportunity would make the biggest difference to your ability to effectively support service children's success?

Answers from the discussion:

- Role models for young people: 'people like me'
- Information: the one place to go to find out what I need to know and share practice with others

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Research

What does research say about the experiences of Primary and Secondary pupils?

The academic literature tells us:

- Mobile service children appear to attain less highly than their non-mobile service peers although mobile service children do seem to out-perform their mobile non-service peers.

- Secondary service children are less likely than their non-service peers to feel safe at school or enjoy their lessons.
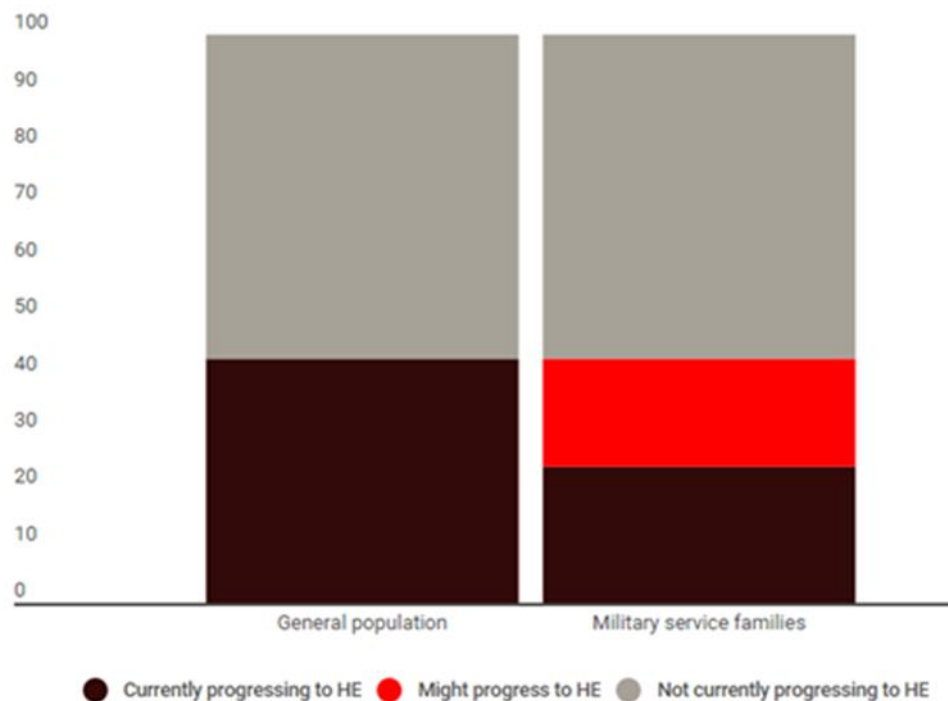
Our research with survey children revealed:

- A parent's absence on deployment is by far the greatest disadvantage.

- Children in military families experience greater pressures during post-16 education due to their increased maturity and understanding of their family's situation.

- Service children from Primary, Secondary and undergraduate age groups: noted courage, bravery, confidence and resilience as benefits of their experiences. Primary pupils also noted, to a lesser extent – independence, responsibility and adaptability. The secondary pupils put less emphasis on the courage traits but more on the independence traits.

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Under-representation in Higher Education

It is in the realm of up to 4 out of 10 who, if in the general population would go to university, do not go if they are a service child.
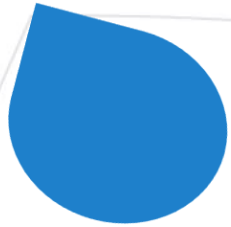
(McCullouch and Hall, 2016)

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What one answered (research) question would make the biggest difference to your ability to effectively support service children's success?

Answers from the discussion:

- Are children better off staying put or following postings/assignments?

- What is the national (and disaggregated) attainment/ learning picture for service children compared to their peers (by subject), and what can we do to close any gaps?

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Policy

What needs to change to make the system more supportive for you?

What one system change would make the biggest difference to your ability to effectively support service children's success?

Answers from the discussion:

- A 'passport' of information that moves with the child smoothly from school to school (at least an identifier)

- Establish service children as a recognised vulnerable group

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Thriving lives for service children | February 18