Dear Colleague

**Supporting progression to higher education for pupils from Military Service families.**

The University of Portsmouth and the University of Winchester, in collaboration with the Service Children’s Progression Alliance (SCiP), would like to invite you to a stakeholder meeting to review the local support for pupils from military service families, in relation to educational progression.

[Research by the University of Winchester and the Ministry of Defence](https://www.scipalliance.org/assets/files/UoW-research-paper_Further-and-Higher-Progression-for-Service-Children.pdf) highlights that children from military service families can demonstrate great qualities of personality and that academically, they generally perform at least as well as their peers from non-military families. However, children from military service families are under-represented in the higher education population, with continuity of education, parental deployment and separation among the biggest factors that impact educational progression to further and higher education.

This initial stakeholder meeting will bring people together from across HE, schools and colleges and local authorities in the South East to build a coherent picture of the factors that help and hinder progression to further and higher education. It is hoped that this will act as a catalyst for establishing a South East Hub, led jointly by the two universities and in collaboration with the SCiP Alliance. (Further information on the Service Children’s Progression Alliance regional hubs can be found on the enclosed leaflet).

The meeting will take place on **Tuesday 30th April 2019**, from 16.30-18.00pm at **The University of Portsmouth**.

Please confirm your attendance by signing up using this [Eventbrite link](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/supporting-progression-to-he-for-pupils-from-military-service-families-tickets-58784201128) before the 20th April. Travel to the university is straight forward by train, and limited parking will be available. Full joining instructions will be forwarded closer to the date.

Yours Sincerely,

Tian Barratt

Outreach Manager, University of Portsmouth