

 **ROYAL
AIR FORCE**


ARMY
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NAVY**



Tri - Service Youth Voice Residential

4 - 7 July 2022

Report
Outcomes
Next Steps

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Introduction

The new Armed Forces Families and Safeguarding (AFFS) Families Plan at Objective 9.5.2 charges Defence to 'Include the voices of Children and Young People with a Serving Parent in the development of all policies and support services that impact on them.'

Objective 9.5.9 of the same Plan states that: 'Professional single Service Community Support (Youth and Community Development) staff continue to develop and support opportunities for communities, including non serving partners, children and young people to have their voices heard at community level and within the local community need analysis.'

To this end a Tri-Service Youth Voice working group has been established to continue to develop on work started under the Defence Children and Young People's Board before it was disbanded in 2021.

The Working Group consists of members of the Army Welfare Service Community Support Team, the RAF Community Support Team, the Naval Service Family and People Support Team and Forces Children Scotland.

Previous work included young people's attendance at the DCYP Board which resulted in them calling for an increased commitment to the delivery of practical steps which ensure children and young people's voices are heard. One of the aspirations of the Board was to plan and deliver a national scale Defence Youth Voice 'event'. The Tri-Service young people's Steering Group was established to drive forward this agenda and this residential represents the first major step in working towards this aim.



The Aims of the residential were to:

- Provide an opportunity to meet and make friends with other Forces connected young people and share lived experiences helping to address feelings of isolation
- Provide an opportunity to build confidence and skills and enable the group to work together as a team.
- Provide an opportunity to discuss issues that are important to Young People.
- Support young people to develop an understanding of what we mean by 'Youth voice' and why its important, including an understanding of how decisions are made and how they are able to influence decision making
- Support young people to develop an understanding of their role in Youth Voice and as Steering Group members (if they choose to be part of that)
- Discuss with the group the next steps for Tri-Service Youth Voice, and what they think should happen next.
- Have fun!

Heartfelt thanks go to all the young people who took part, all the staff who worked so hard to plan and deliver the residential and all the services who supported their attendance.

The following report details the groups' progress and presents the groups' recommendations for change.

Who was represented?

THE ARMY

Bo Kent - AWS South East

Mia Wilkinson - AWS South East

Isabel (Izzy) Eveleigh - AWS South West

Rose Russell - AWS South West

Abigail Smith - AWS South West

Supported by:

Kate Parish - CDW Blandford Camp

AWS Scotland & My Voice Scotland Youth Representatives

Josh McKernan - Army, Adams Well

Isabella Turner - Army, Elgin

Phoebe Tarr - Navy, Argyll & Bute

Sam Robbins - RAF, Kinloss

Jared Yorke - Army, Penicuik

Supported by:

Gina Clark - CDW, Edinburgh

Jed Sullivan - SCDW

Also supported by the
AWS North Team
&
AWS SE Team

THE NAVY



Daniel Keyes - Plymouth

Mia Speiser - Gosport

Katherine Van Eden - Portsmouth

Supported by:

Nicky Ransley - CDW Plymouth/West

Sarah Holland - CDW Portsmouth/East

The RAF



Hayden Williams - Sleaford

Charlie Donnor - Cranwell

Alex Errington - Sleaford

Supported by:

Ian Whitehead - CDO, RAF Cranwell

Sam Hurry - Plt Off Sleaford Air Cadets

With support from:



Nina Collins - Forces Children, Scotland

Forces Children Scotland have been collaborating with Army Welfare Service and Navy Welfare Family People Support in Scotland to explore the experiences of young people from serving and veteran families. In 2019 the Tri-service Military Youth Voice Scotland forum was formed, bringing together young people from across the country. The group have been working together to identify the key issues they feel impact on their wellbeing, education and relationships with their peers and to develop potential solutions.

Workshops & Training

Starting With Problem Solving & Teambuilding



1 The Group Explored:

What is Youth Voice?

Led by the Scotland young people who were selected by My Voice Scotland to represent the group.

The tri-service group were presented with four packets of biscuits. They were challenged to decide, through debate and discussion which biscuits they would have for their break.

The Theory of Change

Using the Pin Point Process the group were given the line of enquiry:

"Thinking about your lived experience as a child of a service family, what are the 3 things/issues/concerns that have had the biggest impact on your lives? These can be both positive and negative.

2 The Group Identified:

The Skills They Need to be Youth Voice Representatives including -

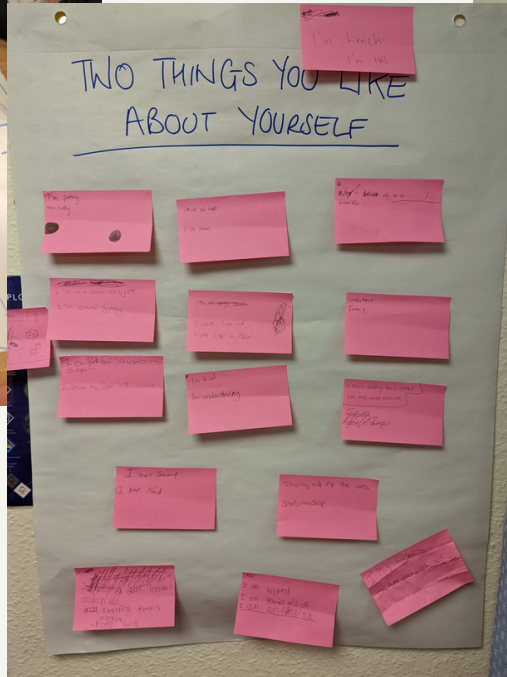
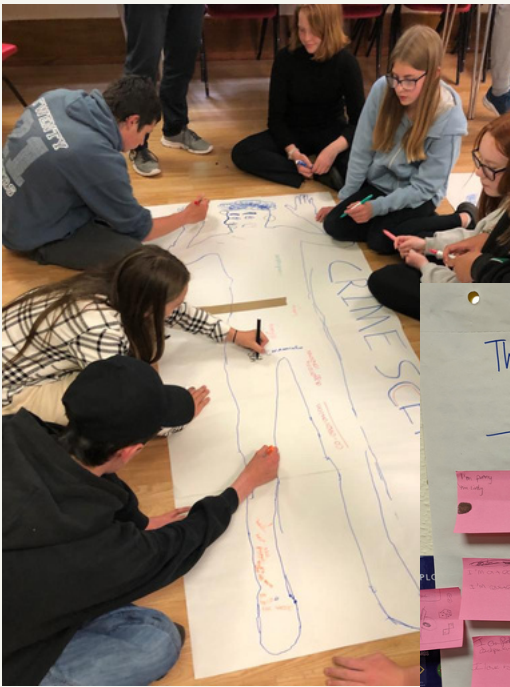
- Teamwork
- Communication skills
- Listening
- Encouragement
- Sharing new ideas

The Skills They Bring to the Group including -

- Problem solving
- First Aid
- Leadership
- Motivation
- Openness to new ideas

3 Creating Solutions

- Working together to share ideas.
- Sharing their experiences of different locations and service life to explore what works.
- Thinking of new ways of doing things and identifying quick wins.
- Presenting their findings to the group and to Becky Wakefield, Chief Community Development Officer.



THE POSITIVES

New opportunities

Meeting and speaking to new people

Getting our points across

Residentials

The community in Helensburgh

Interesting and new experiences

When my parent returns home

Skype

Making new friends

Key issues

The young people identified 5 issues they felt were of concern. They then voted to prioritise which two issues they were going to focus on to create solutions for.

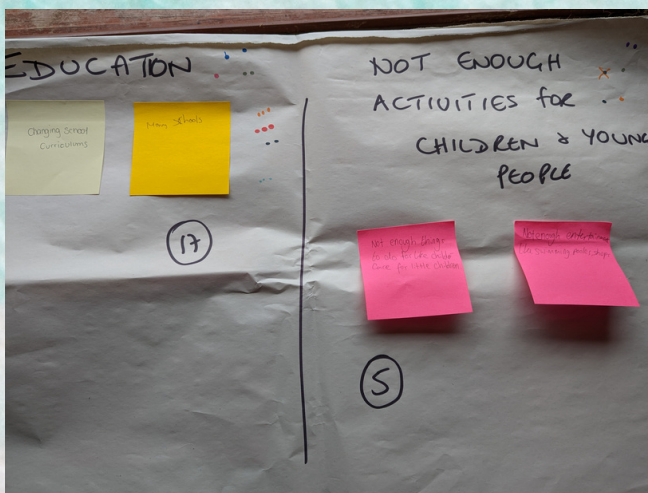
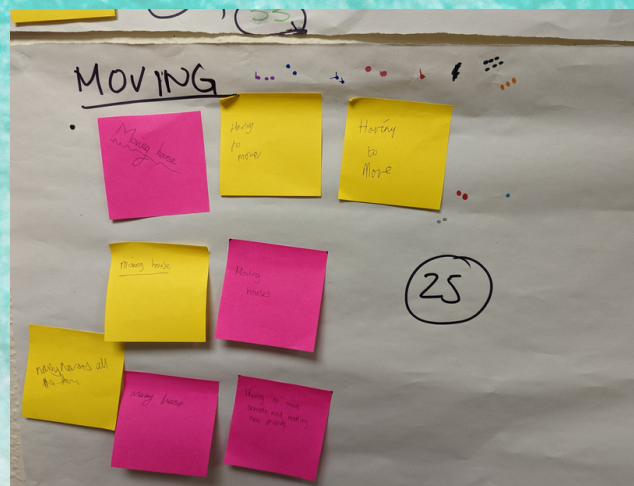
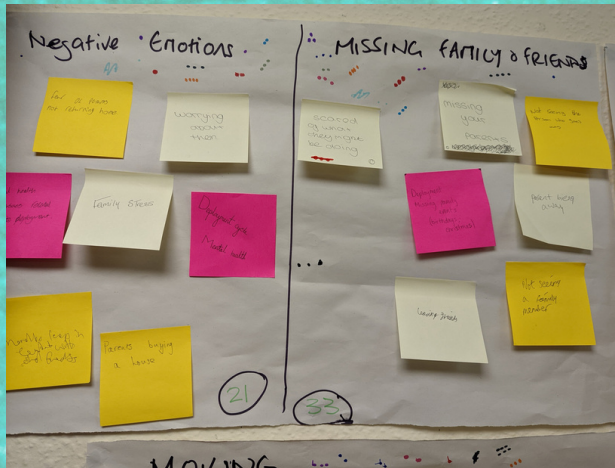
Missing family & friends

Moving

Negative Emotions

Education

Not enough activities



Solutions

Support for parents (wives and husbands) via groups or support to give a hand if needed.

The young people worked together in groups to discuss solutions to the two key issues that they had voted on:

- Missing Family & Friends
- Moving

Reflecting on the methodology of the Theory of Change they focused on how they could make a difference, thinking about:

- What? Were they going to do?
- Who? Is their audience?
- Why? Do they want to do this?
- Where? Is the change/event/action going to happen and do they need a venue?
- When? What is their timescale to achieve their objective(s)?

An Investigation into how single parents and their families cope when the parent is deployed

TIME

To heal and process moves and deployment

If both parents are in the military at least one has to be at home when the other is deployed

Parents to get time off when they return - after a parent has been deployed they have at least 5 months between deployments.

Produce a leaflet to show what is on in an area, eg an introduction to a town

Teacher training on how to support the military and how to help



CDWs to be notified when someone in the military moves to the area, so they can offer support

More opportunities for rest & recuperation (R&R)

To have better communication with the deployed parent

The Proposals

WHO -	Military Families / Serving Person / family feeds / Charities / CO/BECKY / Big Guns
WHAT -	
WHERE -	National Survey
WHEN -	next 6 months
WHY -	Understand military children help them - giving correct support - giving a safe place.

in the meantime People should get correct support throughout.

More time with loved ones. Need more time to see serving person.

Better working arrangements for serving folks. Better communication. Speak to big important people.

2 years +

Go Forward

Research into single parent households:

- Who are the audience - military families, serving personnel, charities, CO/Becky, "Big Guns"
- What? Create a national survey in order to develop better working arrangements for serving folks, and to improve communication within families.
- When? In the next six months, with change being delivered in 2 + years time.
- Why? To understand the needs of military children in order to help them.

Support for parents and families:

- What? Time off school to spend time with family member before and after deployment.
- What? Free wifi all round so it is easier to contact parents and free video calls.
- Who is our audience? The Minister for Education, young people under 18 and the schools.
- Why do we want to do this? To provide more bonding time with family members, improve the mental wellbeing of military families; the time missed could affect the relationship of the child/teenager and the parent who goes away.
- When - how long will it take to do? Approx 3+ years

What are we going to do?

- We could provide support for Parents (wives, husbands) at deployment
- Allow time off school to spend time with the family member (before and after deployment)
- Free video calls / Consoles / things paid for via military
- Wifi all round so it's easier to contact them and children.

Who is our audience?

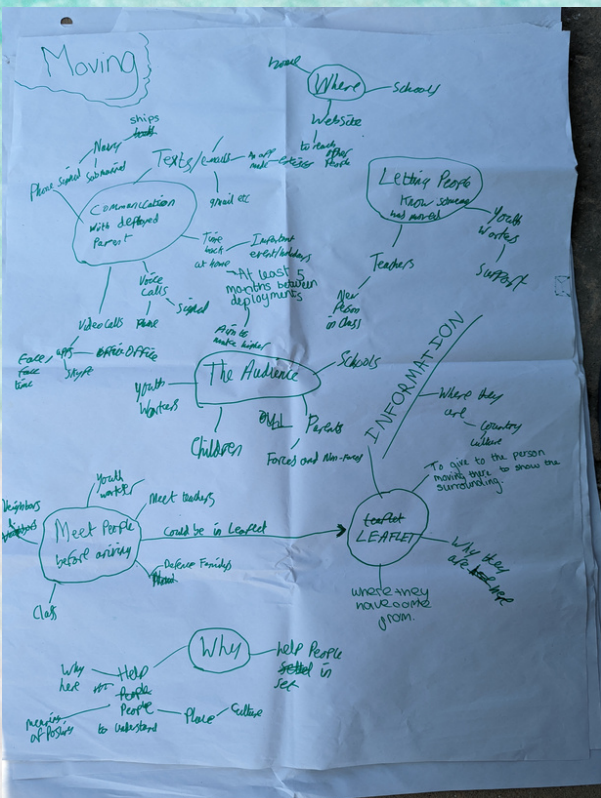
- The People we are aiming at under 18.
- The Schools
- Minister of Education

Why Do we want to do this?

- more bonding time with that family member.
- to increase the mental wellbeing of those in military families.
- The time missed could affect the relationship of the child/teenager with the family member who gets away.

When - how long will this take to do?

• 3+ Years



Moving:

- What? Better communication with the deployed parent. The ability to meet people before the move and a welcome leaflet by young people for young people to help them get to know an area.
- Who are the audience? Youth workers, parents and civilian parents, young people and schools.
- Where? Home, Schools and websites.
- Why? To increase support to particularly young people.
- When? Youth voice group members to go back to their areas and develop their own welcome leaflets by Christmas 2022.

The Fun Stuff



Next Steps...

The Goals:

- to expand the numbers involved in Youth Voice across the tri-services, locally, nationally and internationally.
- to hold a national tri-service Youth Voice event

What are the needs to achieve the goals?

Teamwork & determination
Kindness & co-operation
Matching hoodies & bucket hats
More time to discuss the problems
Lots of different ideas
Money & motivation
Food & concentration
More residentials
Lots of effort & support
To be listened to.

How are we going to achieve our goals?

Online meetings every 3 months
Annual residential

Making news friends & spreading the word
Better social media presence & marketing
Better posters and promos
Leaflets & Video to introduce Youth Voice
Creating a hashtag to put on instagram #
Leaflets & website
Involving more young people and parents
Support is clear and people know who to talk to

When?

Our first online meeting will take place on Sunday 18 September at 1900

Our next planning residential will take place at the Service Cotswold Centre 13 - 16 February 2023



And Finally

We thank you for your continued support for the Tri-Service Youth Voice program.

