

Service Children's Progression



LEADING TOGETHER:

THE SERVICE CHILDREN'S PROGRESSION
ALLIANCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

23 NOVEMBER 2021

 @scipalliance #scipconf2021

www.scipalliance.org

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2021 SCiP Alliance conference. The conference brings together professionals from diverse fields to stay up-to-date on and set future priorities for policy, research and practice developments key to helping Service children thrive.

The Alliance's first ever national conference was called Building Bridges. The bridge-building that began five years ago has enabled the creation of a UK-wide network of 12 hubs that span divides between potentially disparate contexts: between education and military, between research and practice, between vision and its realisation, between Service children and thriving futures.

Over those bridges independent research not only identified seven principles of effective practice, but translated them into the Thriving Lives Toolkit, which will soon be accessible to schools throughout the UK through a new online platform. And together, we have reached over 600 schools, so far, with tailored training to make effective use of the Toolkit; through the Year of the Service Child Voice we have found ways to enhance the centrality of those voices, distilled from the rich diversity of work among allies; and we have begun to fill in the significant gaps in our understanding of Service children's post-16 experiences.

Perhaps, the most significant bridges are those built between allies in local contexts where new investment, relationships and activity have enhanced school-to-school collaboration through the common language of the Thriving Lives Toolkit, inspired innovative peer-to-peer practice through the Festival of Friends model, or created university-school-Service child partnerships through one of the many Creative Forces days that have taken place across the country.

Our 2018 stakeholder research told us that people need to be better connected with each other, with evidence and with support and this still guides our work. Indeed, it is through these enhanced connections that the wealth of experience and insight of allies has been brought to bear on the challenges and ambitions we share. And it is the power and potential of our diversity that will underpin the next phase of the Alliance's development in which we seek to establish a broader and (even more) inclusive SCiP Alliance Community,

Leading Together is not just a conference title or worthy ambition for the SCiP Alliance, it is a necessity for our success.

especially through a new online collaboration platform, and to share its leadership through enhanced structures developed with the community over the coming year.







This is what we mean by Leading Together. The future of the Alliance is in including in the community more of the partners who share our vision of thriving lives for Service children and finding ways to share the leadership of our work so that it reflects the enhanced diversity of the community we are building. It's an open invitation to the thousands supporting Service children's education and wellbeing, from the hundreds who have helped lead our work so far (and the three part-time staff who support them), to shape the Alliance so it helps you help Service children thrive.

Leading Together is not just a conference title or worthy ambition for the SCiP Alliance, it is a necessity for our success. Since its foundation five years ago, the Alliance has grown enormously in scale, reach and depth because a diverse and dedicated network of people have designed and refined its ambitions and actions, together. As ever, I would like to thank you for your contributions to the conference and for supporting the progression of Service children.

Philip Dent, SCiP Alliance Director



AGENDA

0845	Conference registration, refreshments and networking
0915	Welcome to the Conference, Conference chair Lizzie Rodulson, Military Child, Nurse and Ex Surrey Students' Union President
0920	Leading Together <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading as an Alliance, Philip Dent Leading with Service Children's Voices: Principles into Practice, Dr Claire Lee Leading for Sustainable Change: The "Living in Our Shoes" Review - from recommendations to priorities, Dr Gabriela Misca
1035	Leading together discussion time
1100	Break and networking
1115	Leading Together panel discussion with Q and A, chaired by Lizzie Rodulson. Diverse perspectives on the value, challenges and priorities of working together: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russell Collier, Principal Education Officer, Armed Forces Families & Safeguarding, MOD Morgan McArthur, University of Sheffield Students' Union Officer and Military child Anna Hutchinson, Education & Childcare Specialist, Army Families Federation Steph Fawdry, Headteacher, RAF Benson Community Primary School and Chair of Service Children in State Schools (SCISS) Polly Harrow, Assistant Principal, Kirklees College and Chair of the National Association for Managers of Student Services Ant Sutcliffe, Head of Higher Horizons Uni Connect Programme Clare Scherer, Chief Executive, Naval Children's Charity Graham Short, Professional Adviser, Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES)
1230	Lunch and networking
1315	Leading together workshop  ,  or  (see page 4 for workshop choices)
1415	Refreshments
1430	Leading together workshop  ,  or  (see page 5 for workshop choices)
1530	In conversation with Service children
1550	Closing comments, Conference chair
1600	Finish and conference evaluation

	WORKSHOPS - 1315	LOCATION
A	<p>LEADING TOGETHER POST-16</p> <p>Louisa Dobson, Programme Manager, FutureHY Uni Connect Polly Harrow, Assistant Principal, Kirklees College and Chair of NAMSS Kath Lawrence, SCiP Alliance, Head of Operations</p> <p>This workshop will explore recent research around working with post-16 institutions, launch the SCiP Alliance's report (Young People from Armed Forces Families: Post-16 Education and Training) and hear the view from colleges.</p> <p>In this workshop you will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore recent research characterising the context for young people from military families post-16 2. Understand the diverse views from the college sector 3. Explore together how you might work with colleges to support young people from military families' educational progression 4. Identify key messages for researchers, policy makers and practitioners. 	INNOVATE
B	<p>FORCES CHILDREN SCOTLAND: CO-PRODUCTION WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE</p> <p>Chris Paul, Children and Family Services Manager, Forces Children Scotland Cara Pleyrn, Digital Worker, Forces Children Scotland</p> <p>This workshop will look at our co-production model and have a focus on our Your Mind Matters programme. We will discuss how we have been able to work alongside young people and the positive aspect of this type of support while looking at some of the challenges along the way. We will share the voices of our young people and how they have felt in the process.</p> <p>In this workshop you will learn about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The benefits and challenges of co-production with children and young-people 2. What our young people tell us and why it is important 3. How the Your Mind Matters project will support the mental health of young people from military families 	DEVELOP
C	<p>EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES OF SERVICE CHILDREN: MOBILITY, SEPARATION, DEPLOYMENT</p> <p>Rebecca Lovell, Naval Families Federation Anna Hutchinson, Army Families Federation Alexandra Stokes, RAF Families Federation</p> <p>This workshop will help you understand life in Armed Forces families:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Challenges and opportunities that Service children might face in education and how Service children and young people are not a homogenous group 2. The role of the Families Federations 3. How those involved in education can support the challenges and opportunities service children may encounter. 	IMAGINE

	WORKSHOPS - 1430	LOCATION
D	<p>LISTENING TO SERVICE CHILDREN: USING RESEARCH FINDINGS TO REFLECT ON PRACTICE</p> <p>Dr Georgina Normile, Senior Lecturer in Primary Education, Bath Spa University Dr Claire Lee, Research Fellow, Oxford Brookes University</p> <p>Georgina and Claire will share insights gained from their extensive research with Service children and offer delegates opportunities for reflection and discussion. Practitioners working with Service children of all ages, especially younger children, will be challenged to extend their thinking about children's voice and take away ideas to further develop their practice in their own settings.</p> <p>In this workshop you will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain insight from recent research with Service children in the UK context 2. Find space to reflect on and extend thinking about children's voice within your own practice 	INNOVATE
E	<p>CREATIVE FORCES DAY EVENTS - A SHARED EXPERIENCE: HOW WE WORKED COLLABORATIVELY TO PLAN & DELIVER</p> <p>Jessica Darnell, Strategic Projects Manager, LiNCHigher Uni Connect Louisa Dobson, Programme Manager, FutureHY Uni Connect Izzy Tooke, Communications Officer, FutureHY Uni Connect</p> <p>Three Uni Connect hubs collaborated to bring students from primary and secondary schools together in an online, interactive Creative Forces Day.</p> <p>In this workshop you will learn:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Logistical planning - hear how we planned and organised the events from inception to delivery. 2. Collaborative working - we will share best practice on working together to develop new activity. 3. Learner voice - we will share what we learned from the young people who participated in our events to help inform future practice. 	DEVELOP
F	<p>WHAT SCHOOLS TELL US ABOUT SERVICE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION</p> <p>Millie Taylor, SSCE Cymru Programme Manager, Welsh Local Government Association Steph Fawdry, Headteacher, RAF Benson Community Primary School and Chair of Service Children in State Schools National Executive Advisory Committee (SCISS NEAC)</p> <p>Find out how SCISS, through the "Voice of Schools" project and SSCE Cymru, through the 'Cymru stakeholder consultation project', have listened to schools in England and Wales, and responded to what they have told us.</p> <p>In this workshop you will learn:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What schools have told us about their Service children's experiences 2. What schools have found challenging in supporting Service children 3. What schools have identified as good practice in supporting Service children. 	IMAGINE

TODAY'S SPEAKERS, PANEL MEMBERS AND WORKSHOP LEADERS



RUSSELL COLLIER

Principal Education Officer - Armed Forces Families & Safeguarding – MOD @GET_AFFS

Russell joined the Ministry of Defence in 2016 and resides within the Armed Forces Families & Safeguarding team as the Principal Education Officer, heading up the 'Children's Education' workstream in the new Armed Forces Families Strategy. His team provides educational subject matter expert input into MOD policy and advocates for Service children across other government departments, the devolved administrations and a range of stakeholders. Previously he was the headteacher of a 3 to 18 school and has held posts across the state and independent sector.



PHILIP DENT

SCiP Alliance Director @_phildent

Philip was a secondary school teacher before leading a regional higher education access partnership. He founded a social enterprise championing whole-person, whole journey approaches and co-founded the National Network for the Education of Care Leavers, also leading its spin-out as a charity. He has worked throughout the UK and in Australia on leading progression practice, was an adviser to England's access regulator, and has researched, trained and advised schools, colleges, universities and agencies on factors impacting on thriving through the life-course.

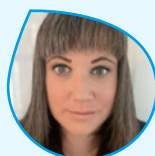
Philip has been Director of the SCiP Alliance since its foundation in 2016 having led the research-practice project that laid its foundations.



JESSICA DARNELL

Strategic Projects Manager, LiNCHhigher Uni Connect @ LiNCHhigher

Jessica has worked in the Education sector for 9 years. Since graduating from The University of Lincoln in 2015, Jessica has worked in a variety of roles focussed on supporting the wellbeing and aspirations of children and young people. Jessica is now the Strategic Projects Manager for LiNCHhigher, the regional hub for the Office for Students (OfS) Uni Connect programme to help learners understand the benefits and realities of Higher Education pathways. She also chairs the Lincolnshire and East Midlands SCiP Alliance Hub.



LOUISA DOBSON

Programme Manager, FutureHY Uni Connect @FutureHY

Louisa is the FutureHY Uni Connect Programme Manager. Since 2017 she has worked closely with the SCiP Alliance to help raise the profile of Service children nationally and has a wealth of experience in developing and delivering outreach for this cohort.

**STEPH FAWDRY**

Headteacher, RAF Benson Community Primary School and Chair of Service Children in State Schools National Executive Advisory Committee (SCISS NEAC) @rafbensonschool @SCISS_NEAC

Steph Fawdry has had the privilege to have been the Headteacher at RAF Benson Community Primary School since September 2010. Prior to this, she worked for Oxfordshire's School Improvement Team and ICT Curriculum teams after moving to Oxfordshire from Birmingham where she taught for a number of years. She believes in making a real difference for Service children given the challenges that they face. Steph is a member and the current Chair of the Service Children in State Schools National Executive Advisory Committee (SCISS NEAC) and, more recently, has been the primary representative on the Board of the SCiP Alliance.

**POLLY HARROW**

Assistant Principal, Kirklees College and Chair of the National Association for Managers of Student Services

Polly Harrow has 25 years' experience in the FE Sector and is currently Assistant Principal Student Experience at Kirklees College, Chair of the National Association of Managers of Student Services (NAMSS) and an Associate with Education Training Foundation. Polly delivers training nationally on safeguarding issues, Prevent and EDI and sits on a number of steering groups including mental health, gangs and youth violence, EDI and exploitation. Polly's key areas of expertise include inclusion, restorative practice, coaching culture and positive behaviour programmes and she has national practitioner status in trauma informed practice. Polly has written a number of blogs (accessible via the ETF website) on inclusion, safeguarding and trauma aware approaches in education.

**ANNA HUTCHINSON**

Education & Childcare Specialist, Army Families Federation

Anna works for the Army Families Federation as their Education and Childcare Specialist. She qualified as a primary teacher in 2004 and has taught in a range of settings. She has worked for a Local Authority as an Education Advisor for English as an Additional Language and Gypsy, Roma, Traveller children. She spent three years as part of a US Army scholarship committee which granted awards to Service children who had obtained places in higher education. She is a military spouse and has two children currently in key stage 1.

**KATH LAWRENCE**

SCiP Alliance Head of Operations @KathLawrence45 @scipalliance

Kath manages the SCiP Alliance's programme of activity and leads the growth in scale and quality of support for Service children's educational progression across the UK. Kath has worked for the Alliance since its inception in 2016 and previously led the University of Winchester's outreach work with local Service children.



DR CLAIRE LEE

Research Fellow, Oxford Brookes University @ ServicechildPhD

Dr Lee is a Research Fellow for the Children and Young People Network, Oxford Brookes University. Informed by her background as a service child and a teacher of service children, her ESRC-funded PhD at the University of Bristol investigated the learning lives of children from armed forces families. Claire's research creates spaces for arts-based dialogue with children, to explore how they make sense of the world and themselves. She is also interested in children's literacies and digital inequalities.

People seeking to support Service children increasingly recognise the importance of listening to their voices, not least because Service children are a diverse group with ever-changing lived experiences. However, listening to children is trickier than it might seem. It is vital, therefore, to pay attention to setting up conditions that can lead to achieving genuine dialogue with children. Drawing on theory and research into children's voice and communication, Dr Lee's presentation provides a simple framework to support delegates in conducting ethical and meaningful children's voice activity.



REBECCA LOVELL

Education and Childcare Policy Advisor, Naval Families Federation @The_NFF

Rebecca joined the Naval Families Federation team in June 2021 as their Education and Childcare Policy Advisor. Rebecca has many years' experience of working in both secondary and junior schools in Hampshire, where she specialised in English teaching. Currently, she is a school governor at her local primary school, with a particular interest in Early Years and wellbeing provision. Rebecca is part of a naval family and lives with her serving spouse and two school aged children.



MORGAN MCARTHUR

Military Child, Activities and Development Officer at Sheffield Students Union

Morgan is a military child who is passionate about increasing awareness and widening participation opportunities for service children in education. As Activities and Development Officer at Sheffield Students Union, she advocates and lobbies for inclusion of and support for higher education service children in development and breaking barriers for their access to activities, including lifting the profile and experiences that service children face, such as parental / family deployment, caring responsibilities and increased stress factors which impact service childrens' journeys throughout their education.



DR GABRIELA MISCA

Senior Lecturer in Psychology, University of Worcester

Dr Misca is an expert in child and family psychology, with a current focus on military families. Recipient of a [2015-16 Fulbright Scholar Award](#), she spent a year in the USA researching military and veteran families. During 2019-2020 she was Research Adviser to the [Living in Our Shoes](#) enquiry, an MP-led independent review commissioned by the Ministry of Defence into understanding the needs of UK Armed Forces families. In recognition of her research into Armed Forces families and its impact, she is (joint) recipient of the [2021 Special Award for FiMpacT](#) by Forces in Mind Trust. Dr Misca is currently leading the international research study [Families Unlocked](#) into the long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on families and relationships, in partnership with Relate, Griffith University and Relationships Australia.



CHRIS PAUL

Children and Family Services Manager, Forces Children Scotland @chris_p4ul

Chris is the Children and Family Services Manager and has over a decade of experience in supporting children, young people and their families. Chris is experienced in mental health and suicide prevention within communities and has a strong passion for amplifying the voices of young people.



CARA PLEYM

Digital Worker, Forces Children Scotland

Cara has almost a decade of digital experience, specialising in crowdfunding and social media. Working as a tutor ignited a passion for young people and her focus on small business has inspired keen interests in authentic engagement, communication, and creativity. Cara is also a MCR Pathways mentor and Inclusive Economy Taskforce Volunteer.



DR GEORGINA NORMILE

Senior Lecturer in Primary Education, Bath Spa University @NormileGeorgina

Dr Georgina Normile is a Senior Lecturer in Primary Education at Bath Spa University, where she teaches on the undergraduate programme. Her recent doctoral research focused on the wellbeing of pre-school children (aged three to four years) experiencing a parental deployment. Prior to her role at Bath Spa University, Georgina was a primary school teacher in various locations across the south of England. Georgina is part of a military family and her husband is currently deployed. She has two children of primary school age.



LIZZIE RODULSON

Military Child, Nurse and Ex Surrey Students' Union President @lizzie_rodulson

As a child who grew up in a military family, Lizzie is a passionate advocate for increased understanding and support for the different challenges and experiences that a child has to go through, especially in education. "From students having family deployed to war zones during their exam period, to families being moved to the other side of the world, the challenges faced are of significant effect. It is crucially important institutions understand these experiences, commit to offering specialised support and hear the voices of an often-unheard student community and I am honoured to be able to make that voice heard by chairing the Service Child Progression Alliance Annual Conference, both as a Service Child but also as someone who, as Surrey's ex-Student Union President, has continued to advocate and lobby for increased support, especially within education."



CLARE SCHERER

Chief Executive, Naval Children's Charity @ClareScherer @NavalChildren

After working in the Theatre as a Lighting Designer/Engineer, Clare moved into the Charity Sector in the early 2000's. Having worked with many charities and establishing Winston's Wish in West Sussex, Clare started working with the Naval Children's Charity (formerly the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Children's Fund) in 2008, taking over as CEO in 2018.



GRAHAM SHORT

MBE TD, Professional Adviser, Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES)

Graham retired as Executive Director of Educational and Social Services of East Ayrshire Council (Scotland) in 2015 where he was responsible for all education, children and adult services provision. He first qualified as a geography teacher but subsequently worked in pastoral care, curriculum development and as a local authority education inspector. As a chief officer he was responsible for implementing the new Scottish legislation on additional support needs. He served as an officer in the Territorial Army for 19 years.



ALEXANDRA STOKES

Policy Advisor Education and Childcare, RAF Families Federation @RAF_FF

Alexandra joined the RAF Families Federation team in August 2021 as the Policy Advisor for Education and Childcare. Alexandra is a qualified primary school teacher and has previous experience supporting military families through her time working for the Military Family Resource Centre while her family were on exchange in North America. Alexandra is a military spouse and has two school aged children.



MILLIE TAYLOR

SSCE Cymru Programme Manager, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) @SSCECymru

Millie took over managing the SSCE Cymru programme in 2018, with a focus on setting strategic goals and a mission that would expand the support available to Service children in Wales. As an advocate for Service children, Millie is always keen to speak with them directly and has coordinated activities to involve Service children in the work of SSCE Cymru. Millie has created many opportunities for collaboration in Wales and is always keen to share good practice with organisations across the UK.



ANT SUTCLIFFE

Head of Higher Horizons Uni Connect Programme @ Higher_Horizons

Ant is Head of Higher Horizons, the Uni Connect Partnership that serves Staffordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire. Ant manages widening participation delivery offices at Keele University, University of Chester, Harper Adams University and Staffordshire University. Having been involved in WP for 17 years, Ant was humbled to win NEON Widening Participation Practitioner of the year in 2020. Ant still lives in North Staffordshire with his wife and two children and has been a member of the SCiP Alliance-Uni Connect steering committee since its inception, guiding the research and development of the UK-wide Thriving Lives Toolkit.



IZZY TOOKE

Communications Officer, FutureHY Uni Connect

Izzy has worked in HE outreach for 5 year after graduating in 2016 from York St John University. Izzy is the Communications Officer for FutureHY and is the lead for the Yorkshire and Northeast SCiP Alliance Hub.

LEADING TOGETHER THROUGH A UK-WIDE NETWORK OF 12 RESEARCH-PRACTICE HUBS

The SCiP Alliance's UK Hub network connects and supports hundreds of school, college, university and community professionals, so that evidence-based, effective work can be developed and shared nationally.

The SCiP Alliance community told us in our 2018 consultation that they need the Alliance to connect them with :



PEOPLE



EVIDENCE



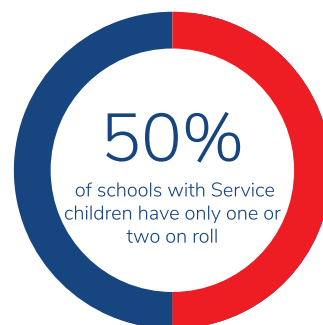
SUPPORT

THE HUB LEADS GROUP LEADING TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT:

- Delivery is impactful
- Engagement grows
- Communications are consistent
- Collaboration is enhanced
- Hubs and the Network are highly valued



Service children are educated in over half of state primary and secondary schools and in all but two local authorities in England.



CASE STUDY: HUBS LEAD CPD CONFERENCES FOR SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UK

Local collaboration, local connections, a consistent UK-wide programme for schools.

8 conferences so far (November 2021), over 650 registrations, over 150 video views.



Scan this QR code to view the London conference June 2021

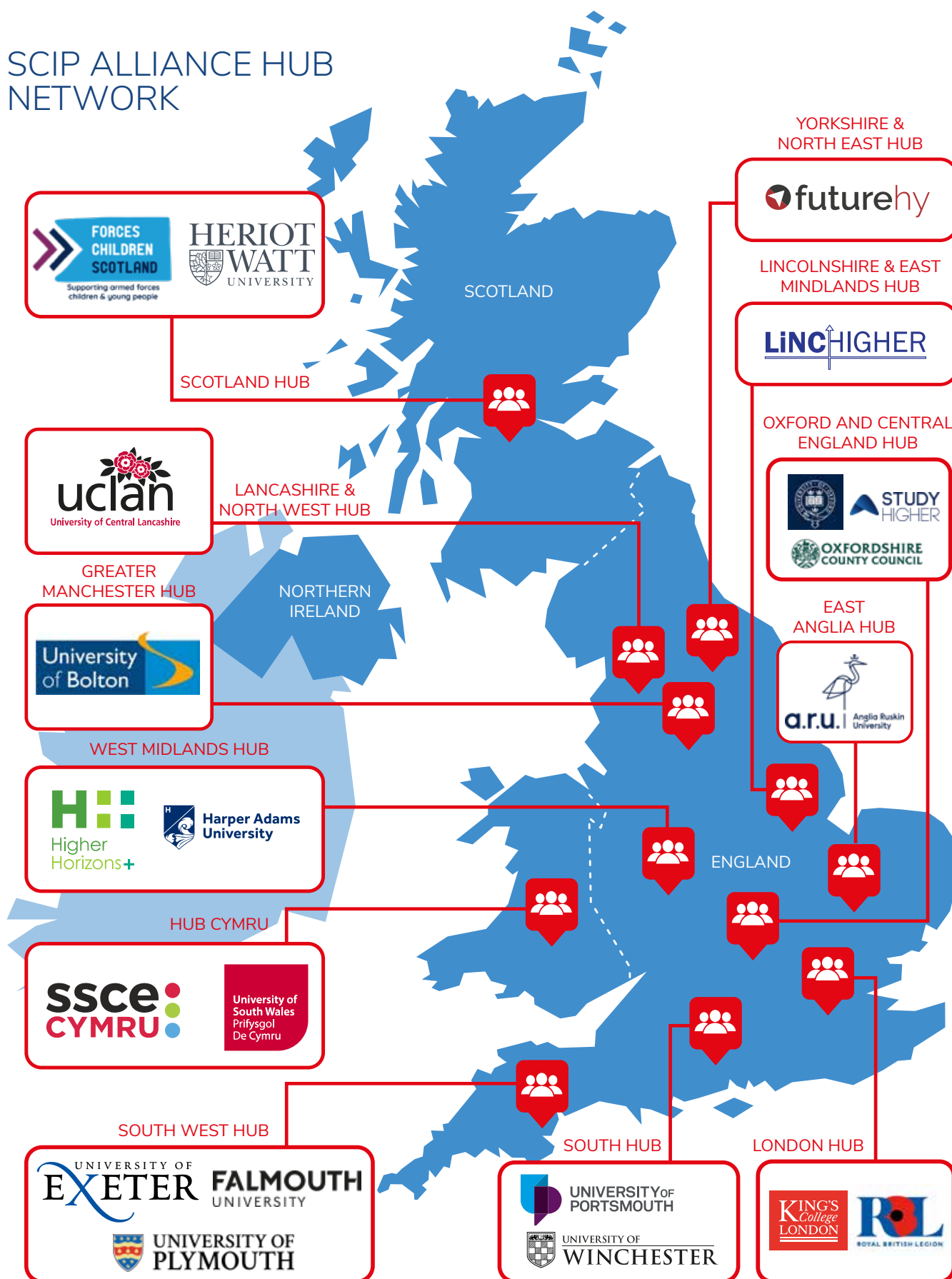
CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

"there is a strong community to access and the toolkit is the way forward" - primary school Service child lead

"the opportunity to explore the toolkit, ask questions and hear others' experience" - primary school teaching assistant

"Well researched and practical, real life advice, supported by educational research" - secondary school Service pupil coordinator

"We need to look through the lens of a service child and their family" - primary school headteacher

SCIP ALLIANCE HUB
NETWORK



TAKE ACTION

JOIN THE ALLIANCE

The SCiP Alliance brings together practitioners, researchers, policymakers and funders to build a stronger evidence-base, better policy, and enhanced support for Service children's education and progression, placing their voices at the heart of all we do. The Alliance is hosted by the University of Winchester and supported by the Ministry of Defence.



Director: **Philip Dent**

Head of Operations: **Katherine Lawrence**

Projects Manager: **Rachel Lad**

Board chair: **Sarah Harder-Collins**, University of Winchester

SPEAK TO ONE OF US TODAY OR GET INVOLVED AT

<https://scipalliance.us16.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=23a341cb-ff8686215dbf1537d&id=25b-22fa430>



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We hope you have enjoyed the day and would be grateful for your feedback to guide our decisions about future events. Please find the time to provide your feedback here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/GmqMnx-PHi9>



HAVE YOU USED THE SCiP ALLIANCE 'THRIVING LIVES TOOLKIT'?



If so, the SCiP Alliance would like to hear from you about its impact so far. (If you have not used the Toolkit, yet, look out for the launch of the new online interactive Thriving Lives Toolkit early in 2022). The SCiP Alliance has commissioned the International Centre for Guidance Studies to evaluate what impact using the Thriving Lives Toolkit has had on schools, their staff and their Service children. We really need your help to do this – if your school, or schools you're in touch with, have accessed the Toolkit we would like to know how much progress you have been able to make, how you have gone about doing this and what effect this has had. Finding out this information helps us develop the Toolkit further, share good practice with other schools and help support Service children to an even greater extent. We know schools are very busy so we have made this a short and easy survey to complete. Please click on the link below to complete the survey. You should be done in 5-10 minutes:

<https://icgs-research.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/thriving-lives-toolkit-impact-evaluation-copy>



THRIVING LIVES FOR SERVICE CHILDREN



The Service Children's Progression Alliance is led by the
University of Winchester and supported by the MoD