

SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN IN OXFORDSHIRE



Briefing for Headteachers: 27th January, 2022

This term's briefing, aimed at school leaders of schools with at least one Service child on roll, was very well received by the delegates and covered the following:

1. Context
2. Local updates - resources available to OCC schools, 'Month of the Military Child', & summer term events/activities
3. National updates - the SCiP Alliance, Hub Network, 'Thriving Lives' Toolkit, recent Annual Conference and 2022
4. National initiatives—SCISS's Voice of Schools project, funding streams & CPD
5. RAFF updates (Alexandra Stokes - Policy Advisor Education and Childcare)
6. 'Little Troopers' overview (Louise Fetigan, founder)
7. Good practice and open floor discussion

For those unable to attend, resources can be emailed out—please contact us.

Please book on to the summer term briefing: 19th May 1:15–2:45 (no charge).
[View Details | Oxfordshire Partners in Learning \(oxfordshireschoolscpd.org.uk\)](#)



April 2022—Breaking News!

Important diary dates:

April: month of the military child

19.5.22 (1.15–2.45pm)
Summer term Service children's Briefing for Headteachers

25.6.22
Armed Forces Day (UK wide)

22.6.22
Service children's Voice event

8.7.22
Service children's Conference for practitioners

Oxfordshire conferences / the Council's Promise

Many of you will remember the successful Service children's 'voice' event which we ran in 2019, followed by a conference for school staff that led to our [Service Pupils Promise](#). The Learning and School Improvement Service is delighted to announce that we will be repeating these events, with some changes, this summer.

OCC has recently added some capacity for our Service children's school improvement offer by commissioning Matt Blyton, an independent consultant with significant experience of supporting the education and welfare of Service children. Matt was a former school leader of an RAF school in North Yorkshire, is a member of the Service Children in State School's National Executive ([SCISS](#)) and sits on the Management Board of the [SCiP Alliance](#).



Matt is working closely with Andy Heyes, School Improvement Adviser, and Steph Fawdry, Headteacher at RAF Benson CP, on the programmes for the two events—further details soon. He is also working with the Director of Operations of the charity *Never Such Innocence* to bring a collaborative project involving some Oxfordshire schools' pupils which will be featured at the conferences. More details to follow soon!

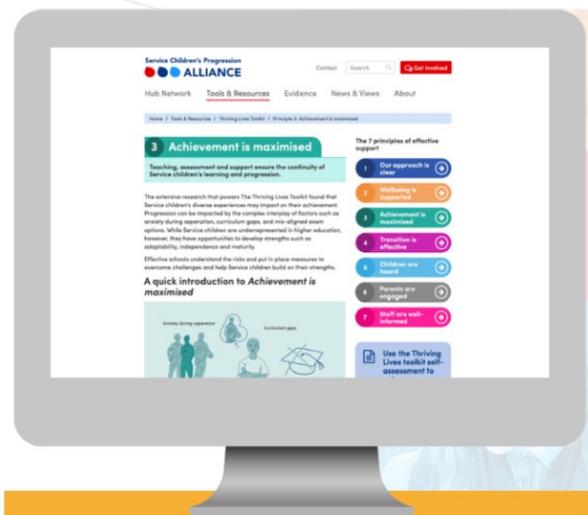
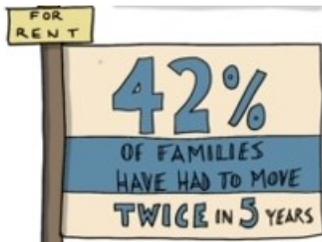
Please hold the dates: 22 June & 8 July.

Did you know?

- 21% of UK's Royal Air Force personnel are based in Oxfordshire.
- During 2020- 2021, 199 schools in Oxfordshire had Service pupils on roll entitled to the Service Pupil Premium.



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**



Online Thriving Lives Toolkit

SCiP Alliance & its Thriving Lives Toolkit

Underpinned by rigorous research and thoroughly tested in schools, the Thriving Lives Toolkit provides leaders with a framework of 7 principles through which to reflect on their practice and a 3-tier set of CPD resources for staff. The CPD resources have been developed in collaboration with a range of partners across the UK, and consist of:

- an introductory animation;
- a detailed resource introducing the evidence base, what schools can do to support their Service children and who can help and;
- school case studies.

If you haven't already explored the Toolkit's self-assessment framework, do take a look as it can really inform your provision and Service Pupil Premium spending:

1 Our approach is clear		Leaders' understanding and approach ensure resources and policies improve Armed Forces children's outcomes.			Thriving Lives toolkit
REFLECT	EVIDENCE	SELF-ASSESSMENT		DATE	
Reflect with stakeholders on these key questions	Identify current practice that demonstrates where you are now	Assess your current practice Emerging Developing Embedding		Identify actions to enhance your support	Agree a deadline for your actions dd/mm/yy
1.1 - To what extent are all those involved in leadership, governance and Armed Forces child support aware of funding and other resources available to support Armed Forces children?					
1.2 - To what extent do you monitor how dedicated funding is spent?					

Service Pupil Premium Reviews

We have now undertaken four of these with school leaders with good feedback and clear development points for the schools to consider.

The purpose of a review is to improve a school's SPP strategy, so that the funding is used increasingly effectively to support Service children at key times and in order to sustain their personal development during times of transition. This includes strengthening their resilience, confidence and independence, whilst ensuring they feel a sense of belonging within their school community.

A bank of good practice examples is emerging from these reviews, such as:

- All four schools have utilised the SCiP Alliance 'Thriving Lives Toolkit' to support their self-evaluation and improvement work.
- Separate 'SPP Evaluation and Strategy Statement'.
- High profile 'presence' on the school website.
- Clearly documented transition procedures - for joiners and leavers.

Please contact SchoolImprovementTeam@Oxfordshire.gov.uk if you would like a review (currently no charge).

OCC's Toolkit for the support of Service children has been developed and updated. Access it from our website!

Connected Forces platform

SCiP has created 'Connected Forces', an online space for 16 to 19-year-olds from armed services families

Here is the website article the Digital team recently published—its lower down after the interview about the Thriving Lives Toolkit. [New tool kit aims to support the children of military families \(forces.net\)](#)



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