



Network meetings for school Service children leads and senior leaders



Matt Blyton, *Interim School Improvement Adviser. OCC
& Member of SCISS NEAC & SCiP Alliance Management Group*

Wednesday 14th June, 2023
1315 – 1445





Getting involved



Please:

- Ask questions and comment in the chat
- Please keep videos on if you can
- Please interact and get involved!
- Unmute to ask a question directly (there will also be opportunities for this throughout the session)
- Send questions & feedback after the briefing to:

matt.blyton@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call 07551 680595



Today's agenda:

- **Guest speakers:** the work of the North Yorkshire Service Children's Champions
- **Local updates**
 - Festival of Friends
 - Plans for 2023/24
- **National updates:**
 - SCiP Alliance
 - SCISS
 - Armed Forces Day: 24th June
- **Service children with SEND**
 - Catterick's Garrison ASSIST Project



Service Children's Champions - North Yorkshire

Welcome to:

- Jess Greenhalgh
- Angela Campbell





Local Updates

1. Festival of Friends
2. Plans for 2023/24



Watchfield Primary School



1. Festival of Friends 22.6.23

Over 200 at Oxford Brookes University – want to join us?

TIME	ACTIVITY	NOTES
1530	Schools arrive	Set up project display in flat room - 1 table per school + board. (Can use side entrance.)
1545	Campus tour ABCD	Schools split into four groups and the children will have ½ an hour on a rota across the 4 activities. Children to bring packed lunches – weather permitting, will be able to eat outside.
1615	Juggling BCDA	
1645	Packed lunch CDAB	
1715	See exhibition DABC	
1745	Drink & pastry pre ceremony Assemble in theatre (photo 2)	NB Guests invited to see exhibition from 5pm
Ceremony - Clerici in the Sir Kenneth Wheare Hall (Matt as MC)		
1800	Entertainment - starter	Steve Royle (<i>Britain's Got Talent</i> finalist 2020)
1805	Welcome messages	Professor Alistair Fitt - Vice Chancellor
1810	Why we need your support	Kieran and Alfie - Student Ambassadors, Carterton Community College
1815	Entertainment – main course	Steve Royle
1830	Our amazing Service children	Video clips
1835	Award ceremony	Awarding of certificates (part 1)
1840	Messages for the children	Charmian Hickman - AFET Wg Cdr Laurie Tostevin - OC BSW RAF Benson (TBC) Lt Col Simon Jenkinson - CO Defence EOD, Munitions & Search Training Regiment, St George's
1850	Award ceremony	Awarding of certificates (part 2)
1855	Entertainment - dessert	Steve Royle
1900	Close	Group photo



School projects:

SCHOOL	Project
Carterton CC	Formation of an SPP journalism / library group
Brize Norton Primary	Improving communication between military families and school
Carterton Primary	Strengthening pupil voice and a two-way understanding of what it means to be part of a military family
Edith Moorhouse	Improving mobility tracking and transitions
Hanborough Manor	Establishing Hanborough Heroes and a reflection garden
North Leigh	Forces Life Awareness
St Christopher's	Create a deployment form for parents / strengthen communication
St John the Evangelist	Create Service Pupil Advocates and plan a celebratory event
Clanfield Primary	Celebrate SC and their families and spreading awareness
Five Acres Primary	Let's talk! Strengthening Service families' voices
Longcot & Fernham	Events to support Service families
Faringdon CC	Creating a dedicated Service families website page
Wallingford Secondary	Strengthening Year 7 transition and student voice
RAF Benson	Creating a pupil-led welcome package for SC starting school
St Nicolas, Abingdon	Establishing a SC's Camo club and strengthening pupil voice
Sunningwell Primary	Supporting deployment through reading
Stephen Freeman	Strengthening parental engagement-supporting the whole family
Ewelme CE Primary	Creation of a Service pupil pastoral care group
Carswell Primary	Creating and recruiting a Service Home School Link Worker role

Autumn case studies publication

School context	Military base(s) served	Catterick Garrison, RAF Leeming
	Distance to military base	7.5 miles to Catterick Garrison/6 miles to RAF Leeming
	Military member on GB?	Yes
	Any staff with serving spouses?	Yes
	Any other relevant information	-
Why the school agreed to take part	To increase awareness and support for Service Pupils.	

Project overview

A film presentation outlining the thoughts, feelings and memories of students from military families and also detailing the support/activities on offer at Bedale High School for Service Pupils including the Military Students' Club.

Main Project objective

Spreading awareness of Service Pupils

Intended outcomes of the project

The project will reinforce the various opportunities at Bedale High School for Service Pupils and hopefully lead to an increase in the numbers attending the lunchtime support club and other military events in the area including Armed Forces' Day in June and the annual Remembrance Service at Ripon Cathedral in November. It is also hoped that Non-Service Pupils and families will receive a greater appreciation and understanding of how life can be for Service Pupils and the disruption often encountered through school moves and absent parent(s) due to deployment.

Description of what you did

A survey was sent out to families/carers of Service Pupils detailing the support available for Service Pupils at Bedale High School. A film presentation was placed on the Bedale High School website and also the school Facebook page with regard to how Service Pupils feel about being part of a military family and the challenges they face. The film also included details regarding the lunchtime support club for students, trips available and the other support which can be accessed from the North Yorkshire Service Pupils' Champions, Mrs Jessica Greenhalgh and Mrs Nicki Young who are available to help in respect of counselling and well-being.

Isobel, "It was fun taking part in the Festival of Friends project and I also liked being filmed."



Lilly, "I have enjoyed taking part in the Festival of Friends project because I enjoyed working with my friends and also speaking to my Dad about it who is currently serving in Canada."

What has been the impact?

A greater awareness to all parents/carers of the challenges faced by Service Pupils and the support available.

Next steps

Showing the film presentation in a school assembly.





2. Plans for 2023/24

AFCTF grant awarded for ***maximising outcomes for Service children:***

- **Quality assurance** (Service Pupil Premium reviews in up to ten schools). **Contact me if interested.**
- Additional support in the **teaching of writing** following outcomes analysis.
- **Sharing good practice:** the production of termly newsletters; an up to date toolkit: developing website guidance to schools and parents; and hosting two conferences
- Undertaking a school-to-school **transition assessment project** (this may involve the creation and piloting of an electronic portfolio for Service children moving schools) **Contact me if interested.**

Autumn term conferences – please hold the dates

- **Friday 13th October:**
Pupil Voice event
- **Friday 17th November:**
Thriving Lives for Service children: conference for school leaders and pastoral staff
- Autumn newsletter items wanted!

May 2023

SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN IN OXFORDSHIRE

[Home | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Looking forward...

FESTIVAL OF FRIENDS PROJECT 2022/23

In the January edition of this newsletter [Service Paths - Schools in Oxfordshire](#), an overview was shared of this year-long project involving 25 schools across the county funded by the [Armed Forces Education Trust](#) charity. Do check out their website!

These Schools, and one Early Years setting, have been accessing staff training and running small school improvement projects which will be shared in an electronic publication accessible to all schools early next term.

On Thursday 22nd June, representative Service children and staff from the schools will attend a special celebratory event being held at Oxford Brookes' Headington campus. As well as showcasing their schools' work to each other, invited guests and VIPs, the children will also take part in a campus tour with some University student ambassadors; learn to juggle with a recent Britain's Got Talent runner-up (TV celebrity Steve Royle); and attend an awards ceremony. It should be a memorable day for them.



The Council's *Learning & School Improvement Service* is extremely grateful to the University for providing the venue and staff for this event without charge.

Particular thanks must also go to the four school leaders who have overseen this fabulous project which will make a difference to so many Service children in our schools:

Hannah Owen, Carterton Community College
Gemma Rogan, Faringdon Learning Trust
Sue Khawaja, AHT Five Acres Primary, Bicester
Rob Lyons, Services Champion, Wallingford School

Armed Forces week June 2023

Armed Forces Day in the United Kingdom is an annual event to commemorate the service of men and women in the British Armed Forces.

Find out more via the following link:
[Armed Forces Day - 24 June 2023](#)

How will your school celebrate?





MoTMC April 2023: RAF Falcons launch season with Brize Norton sports field jump

FREE summer term CPD:

1/Network meetings for school Service children leads:

- 14 June (13:15-14:45)
<https://edupointservices.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>
(see footer*)

2/Armed Forces' Children: the board's role

- 6 June (19:00-20:30)
www.governorshub.com or email governor-services@oxfordshire.gov.uk

PLEASE HOLD THE DATE!

Service children: Pupil Voice event - Friday 13th October

Thriving Lives for Service children - conference for school leaders and pastoral staff - Friday 17th November

Both events are being funded through an Armed Forces Covenant grant the Learning & School Improvement Service has successfully bid for.

Further details early next term!



* These termly sessions aim to provide updates, training and opportunities to share good progress amongst schools that have Service children on their rolls. The sessions are being led by external consultant Matt Blyton who has a wealth of experience in this field, and who is a current member of the SCISS National Executive and the SCIP Alliance Management Group.



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**



Resources to support Oxfordshire schools

[Service Pupils | Schools \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](https://oxfordshire.gov.uk/service-pupils/schools)

Information and guidance for schools with service pupils

Service Pupils Promise from Oxfordshire County Council
[Oxfordshire County Council's 'Promise'](#)

Toolkit for the support of Service Children [Toolkit](#)

Service pupil premium (SPP): DfE information for schools
[SPP](#)

Quality assurance & support visits— please Matt Blyton if interested

National Updates

SCIP Alliance
SCISS
Armed Forces Day: 24th June



Armed Forces Day: 24th June



Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance

The Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance is a partnership of organisations focused on improving outcomes for children from Armed Forces families. It is hosted by the University of Winchester and supported by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Thriving Lives for Service Children

We bring 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 NEED

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

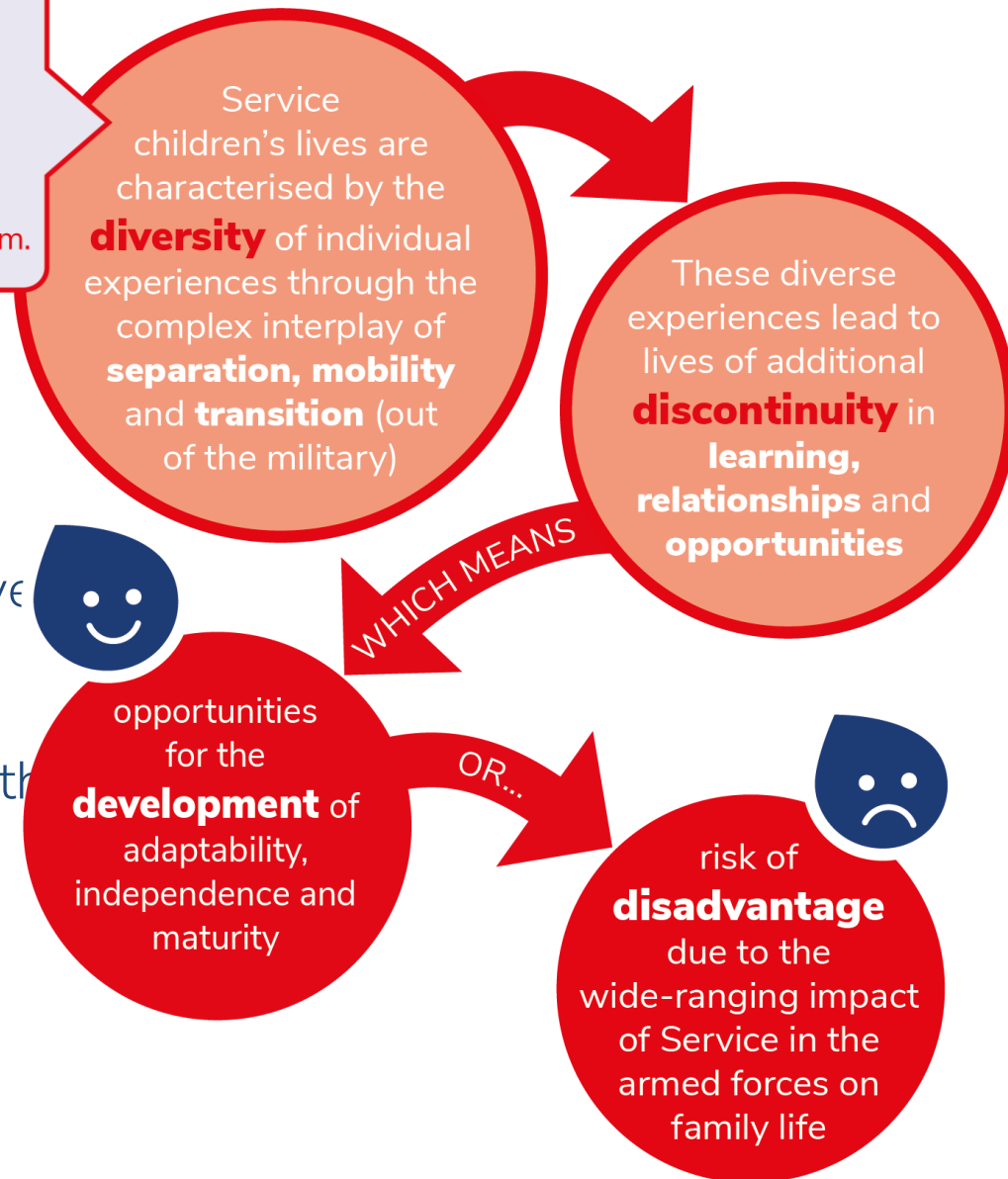
The children of armed forces personnel have huge potential, but are at risk of underachieving and too few practitioners are equipped and confident to support them.

Service children:

- Are less likely to access higher education
- May attain less well, if they move schools a lot
- Can have hidden caring responsibilities and mental health and wellbeing challenges

But definitely:

- Have huge potential

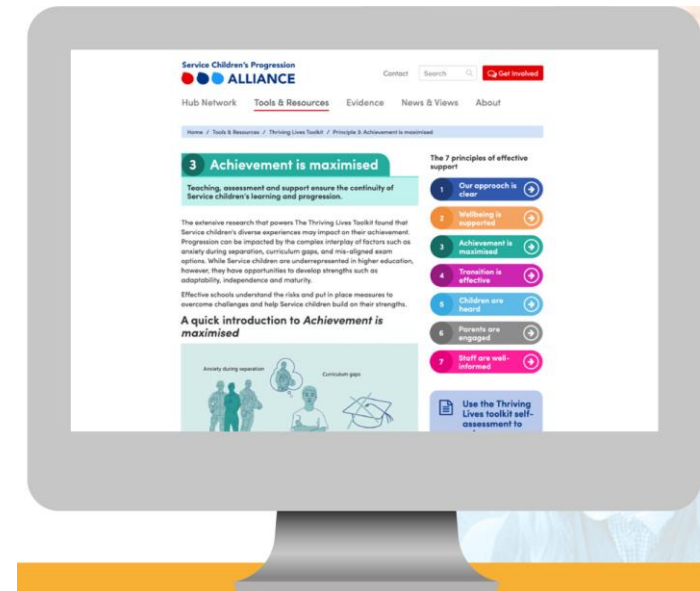


Key Research Findings

- 'Four out of ten Service children who have the ability to progress into higher education are unlikely to do so.'
- 'Mobility and deployment are two overarching issues that may impact on Service children', through;
 - 'Discontinuity of provision through delays, poor communication and transition arrangements, (especially SEN and those sitting examinations), curriculum changes'
 - 'Emotional wellbeing, disrupted friendships, increased potential for bullying'
 - 'Increased emotional and behavioural problems'
 - 'A higher incidence of mental health issues in children and parents'
 - 'Increased incidence of the child as carer.'

Toolkit Rationale and Approach

- Service child DIVERSITY
- Service child DISTRIBUTION
- No one-size-fits-all approach
- Therefore, focus on the right questions, the answers to which enable effective practice in each unique school context
- Links to case studies, resources and CPD
- 7 Principles of effective support



helping schools support service children		The 7 principles of effective support	
	Principle	Vision	
The 7 principles of effective support	1 Our approach is clear	Leaders' understanding and approach ensure resources and policies improve Service children's outcomes.	
	2 Wellbeing is supported	Tailored pastoral provision supports Service children's mental health and wellbeing.	
	3 Achievement is maximised	Teaching, assessment and support ensure the continuity of Service children's learning and progression.	
	4 Transition is effective	Systems and support ensure seamless transitions for Service children arriving at and leaving school.	
	5 Children are heard	Service children's diverse voices are heard and inform the support they receive.	
	6 Parents are engaged	Strong home-school partnerships help Service families feel valued as part of the school community.	
	7 Staff are well-informed	Supportive training and networks ensure all staff understand and support each Service child.	



The Thriving Lives Toolkit – a 3 tier model

ENGAGE

A quick introduction to *Wellbeing is supported*

2 Wellbeing is supported

Tailored pastoral provision supports Service children's mental health and wellbeing.

video

INFORM

Enhance your support – self-directed training module

Enhance your support for Service children in relation to *Principle 2: Wellbeing is supported* through the following self-directed professional development module. This CPD resource, written by a collaboration of professionals specifically for schools, explores the evidence base, and looks at what schools can do and who can help you ensure *Wellbeing is supported*.

THE EMOTIONAL CYCLE OF DEPLOYMENT (Vestal Logan, 1987)

With thanks to the Naval Families Federation

2 Wellbeing is supported

Google Slides

ENHANCE

School Case Studies

Case Study: RAF Leeming Community Primary School

Case Study: Thomas Adams

Case Study: Herne Junior School

Case Study: Alderwood School

Case Study: Chetwynd Primary Academy

Case Study: Crofton Hammond Infant School



Thriving Lives Toolkit: Future Developments

Programme of work to develop the Thriving Lives Toolkit:

- Development of 50 Case studies exemplifying the principles
- A survey tool to help schools listen to and support Service families
- Integrated online training
- Expanding the suite to the full life course (including Early Years, FE and HE)



The 7 principles of effective support	Principle	Vision
	1 Our approach is clear	Leaders' understanding and approach ensure resources and policies improve Service children's outcomes.
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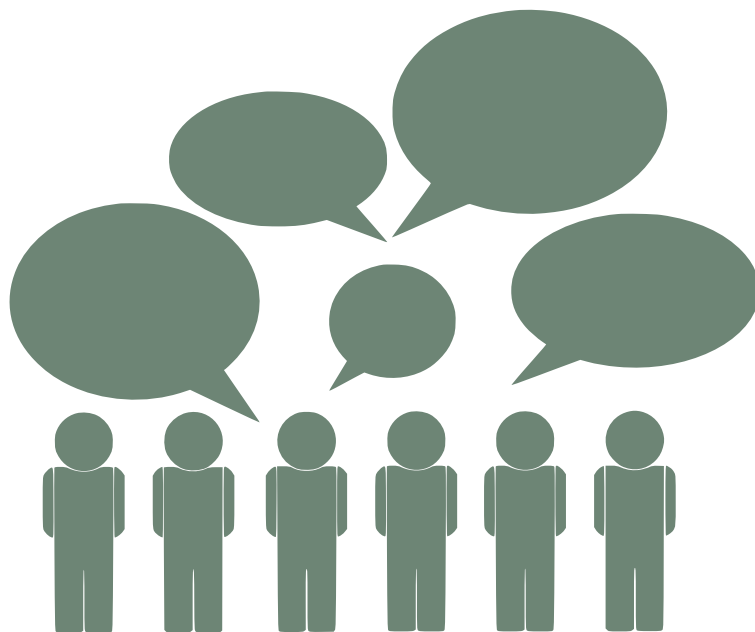


Service Children's Progression



Annual Conference 2023

Thursday 29th November, Birmingham



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SCISS <https://www.sciss.org.uk/>




Service Children in State Schools

The Voice of Schools – Supporting Service Children in England

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A warm welcome

We provide schools and practitioners supporting Service children with information around how we use the voice of schools in making positive changes and influence policy for Service children in education across England.




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Armed Forces Day – Sat 24th June



Any school plans
to share?



The Garrison ASSIST Project

Over-arching recommendation

Recommendation 15

The Governments of the UK to make 'Getting It Right for Service Children' a national education priority in all nations of the UK and take all necessary steps to ensure that Service children, especially those with special educational needs and disabilities, are not disadvantaged by Service life.

Living in our Shoes: Understanding the needs of UK Armed Forces families (MOD: June 2020)

THE VISION

We want to ensure that provision for SEND C&YP on the Garrison is the best it can be. To achieve this, our group of schools will work towards a consistent approach, and through our dedicated team of highly trained and knowledgeable staff, will ensure no time is wasted putting in place appropriate support for highly mobile pupils.

In other words:

- i. Current and appropriate training**
- ii. Clear and effective assessment**
- iii. Accessing the right external support.**



The Garrison ASSIST Project

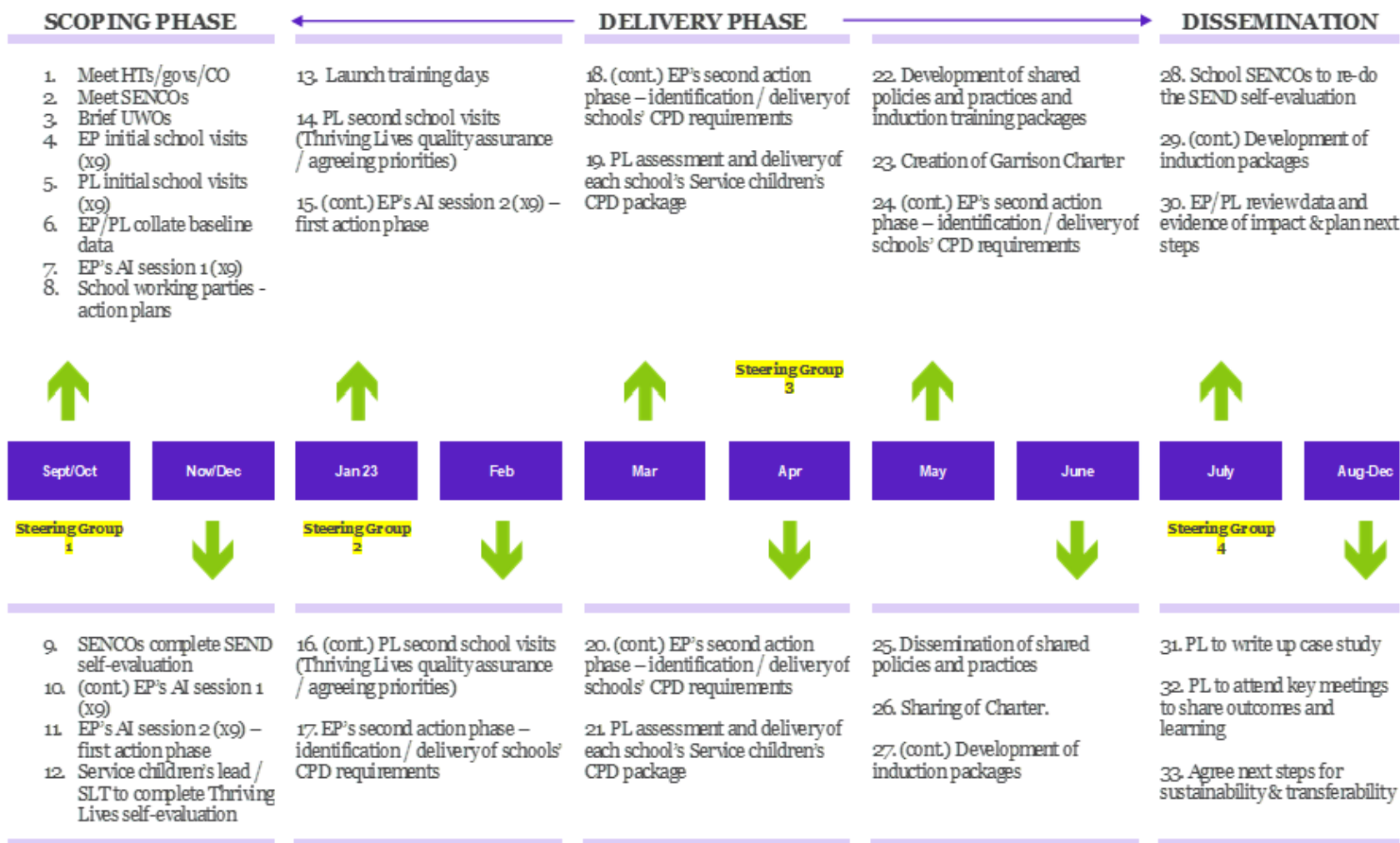


Intended outcomes

1. Strengthened provision and systems for supporting military families.
2. Strengthened provision and systems for supporting SEND learners.
3. Upskilled workforce across the schools on aspects of the schools' military context.
4. Upskilled workforce across the schools on evidence-base good SEND practice, especially in the areas of SEMH and C&I.
5. Improved induction and ITT training for the schools' context.
6. Greater consistency across the schools in how they support both military families and those children with SEND.
7. All relevant school staff to have a clear understanding of the processes and procedures of how to apply for additional funding for individual children and the timeline for the application and assessment process for Education, Health and Care Assessment Request (EHCARs).
8. All relevant school staff to have a clear understanding of the processes and procedures of how to refer children to NHS Paediatric Services and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), and who can make such referrals.
9. Overall, staff confidence over supporting pupils with a range of SEND has risen.
10. Parents of children and young people with SEND demonstrate greater confidence in the Garrison schools' processes and provision, and the information they receive.
11. The voices of Service children with SEND have been heard and acted on, and overall they are positive about how provision is adapted for them and school transitions supported.



The Garrison
ASSIST Project





Questions and thoughts





**Thank you for your
contributions and for all that
you do to support
Oxfordshire's Service children.**