



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*

Tuesday 7th March, 2023
1315 – 1445



Welcome & introductions





Getting involved



Please:

- Ask questions and comment in the chat
- Please keep videos on if you can
- Use thumbs up to show agreement
- Unmute to ask a question directly (there will 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:

- **Work of Armed Forces Education Trust (AFET)**
- **National updates:**
 - Thriving Lives case study project: let's focus on deployment
 - MoTMC
- **Local updates**
 - What's coming up in Oxfordshire?
- **Ideas & problem solving session**
 - Service children with SEND: GAP (Catterick)



ARMED FORCES EDUCATION TRUST

Educational Grants so Service, and ex-Service,
children don't miss out



Our Purpose

We are here to help mitigate the disadvantage that sometimes befalls children of members of the armed forces. We support the most disadvantaged children to improve education that has been compromised or put at risk by their parents' service.

How we can help

- Past 5 years Trust has given grants of over £2 million.
- Helped numerous service children through **individual grants**.
- Helped 100s of service children through **collective grants**.
- Budgeted grant spend of £450k per annum.

Individual Grants

- Grants given to individuals (meeting criteria) for educational purposes.
- Could cover education related fees or specialist support
- Often short term support to parent leaving services or being affected by CEA decisions during key exam years.
- Help vulnerable children who need to board, in conjunction with other charities.



Collaborative Grants

- We recognise that Service children with SEND often have delayed diagnosis due to mobility
- We are also aware that moving between nations/ countries doesn't always mean that funding follows
- The Trust has helped schools give such children 1-1 support while EHCP funding is sought



Collective Grants

- Addressing issues that may result from facets of Service life such as mobility and deployment
- Grants to schools with Service/ ex Service children for various education related purposes.
- Supporting projects that help service children but for which there is little or no additional funding available.
- Emotional support for Service children
- Looking to finance or partially finance interventions where service pupil improvement can be demonstrated.



Success Stories – Josie



- Josie's Dad was posted back from America, where Josie had been diagnosed as Autistic and given the 1-1 support she needed in school
- On return to the UK the diagnosis was not accepted and the family and school had to start again
- Temporarily employment of a 1:1 LSA allowed support of Josie's needs in core areas of learning.
- She has now secured an EHCP so this support will be able to continue.

Success Stories – Herne Primary School



- Engaged a local artist to work with a diverse group of service pupils to produce "A Tribute To Our Amazing Armed Forces"
- Children were from Army, Navy and RAF families
- Art was a stimulus for discussion, enabling the group to talk about and share their experiences of being in a Service family.

Success Stories – Upton by Chester High School



- Employed a Service pupil mentor who:
 - Worked with Service pupils who had been identified as underachieving or who required specific support
 - Worked with parents and pupils to improve their attendance
 - Gave transition support to the large number of pupils due to move to Cyprus as part of battalion posting

Success Stories – South Farnborough Infants

- Regular play therapy targeted at the most vulnerable amongst the service community within the school
- Gave these Service children the opportunity to express their fears and worries in a safe and familiar 1:1 environment
- Gave the children strategies to overcome issues and prevent conflict and language to help them ask for support if they need it



How to apply

- Use resources such as Thriving Lives Toolkit to identify /confirm the needs of your service children.
- What needs cannot be met by Service pupil premium or other funding but are vital to do?
- Talk to other local schools and see what you can learn from each other and how you can support each other. If they have similar needs you may wish to consider a joint application.
- Submit an enquiry via our website and we will call you to discuss your needs and grant requirements
- Please note that we do not fund capital projects.

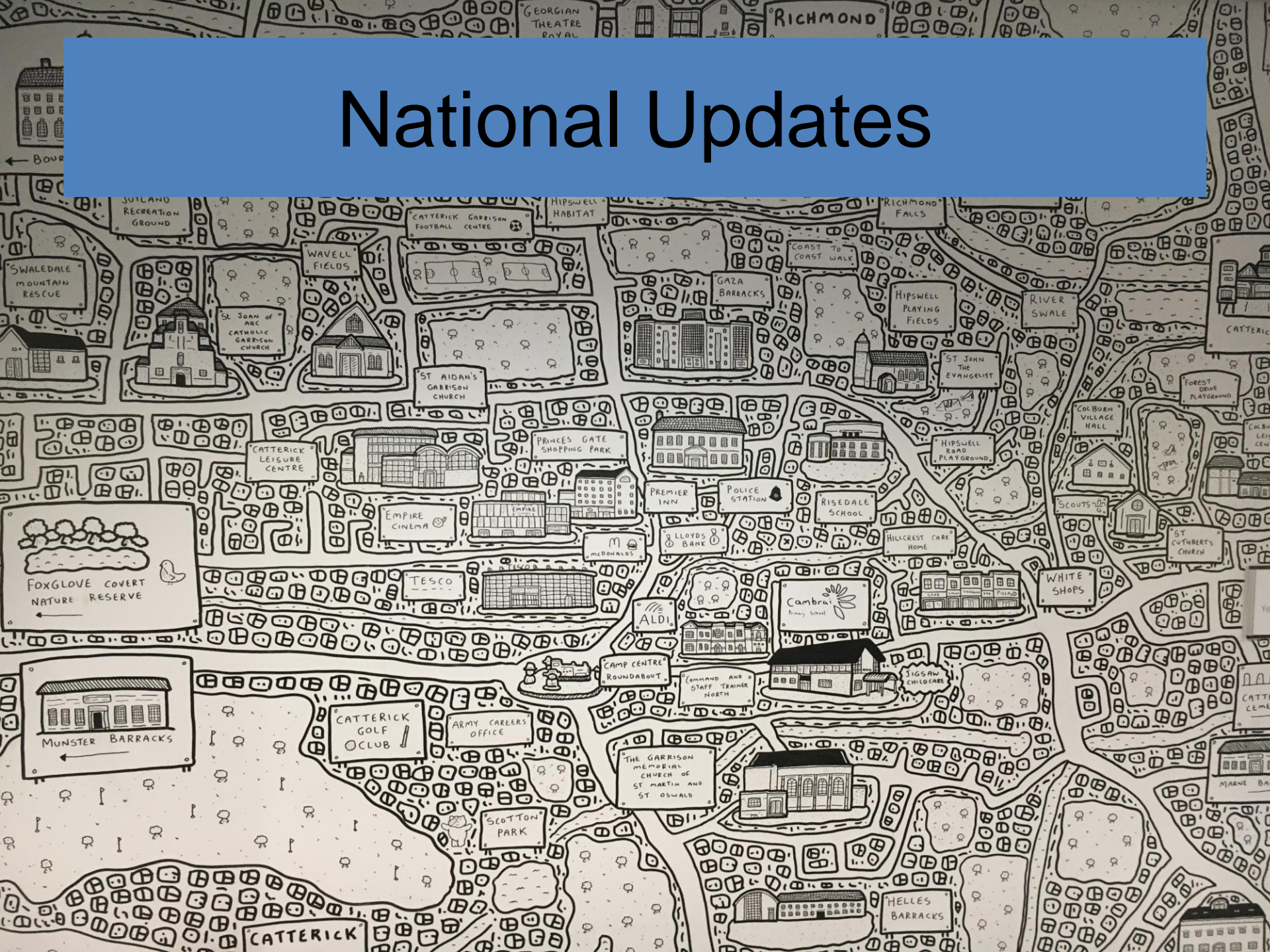


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Email - admin@armedforceseducation.org

Website - <https://armedforceseducation.org/>

National Updates



The Thriving Lives Toolkit

- Underpinned by rigorous research
- Thoroughly tested in schools
- Framework of seven principles
- Three-tier set of CPD resources.

**Thriving
Lives
toolkit**

helping schools support Service children

- victoria.fisher@winchester.ac.uk Engagement Officer



Dashboard

Users

Thriving Lives Toolkit

New to the toolkit?

New submission

Submission history

Need Help

Kath Lawrence testing

Welcome back

Kath Lawrence testing

Test primary

Number of service children: 250



Principles assessed
0 (out of 7)

Your school profile is: **Emerging**

0 Objectives set

Submit

Complete the self-assessment for all participants



Download report

Invite Additional Users

1. Our approach is clear

Leaders' understanding and approach ensure resources and policies improve Service children's outcomes.

0 Objectives set
0 Completed
0 Overdue

Emerging

Developing

Embedding

Progress

0%

Expand



2. Wellbeing is supported

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

0 Objectives set
0 Completed
0 Overdue



Welcome to the SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives toolkit for schools.

Login

Underpinned by rigorous research and thoroughly tested in school, the Thriving Lives Toolkit provides schools with a framework of 7 principles through which to reflect on practice and plan support for children and young people in Armed Forces families. Register to access the toolkit, upload your evidence and judgements and submit and download your report.

If you are outside of the United Kingdom and would like to register, please contact scipalliance@winchester.ac.uk



Thriving Lives Case Study Project

- The Naval Children's Charity has funded the SCiP Alliance to create an evidence-based template and guidance and fifty case studies linked to the seven principles of the Thriving Lives Toolkit.
- These will help schools take a more rigorous approach to the Thriving Lives Toolkit self-assessment, where school staff will be able to assess their progress by learning from others' well-evidenced examples.
- The case studies will be collected from schools across the UK, to increase the number and diversity of case studies of effective practice aligned to the seven principles of effective support.
- OCC has the contract.



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL



Timeline

Spring 2023

Project team to exemplify the Thriving Lives self-evaluation questions, supported by Advisory Panel
Development of case study template and guidance, with the testing of the documents with schools
Project schools supported to complete and submit self-evaluations

summer 2023

Mapping exercise: identification of 50 case study schools
Online moderation meetings with case study schools

Autumn 2023

Creation of 50 written case studies (by end of October 2023)
Evaluation visits to schools & report produced (by end of December 2023)



Exemplification stage

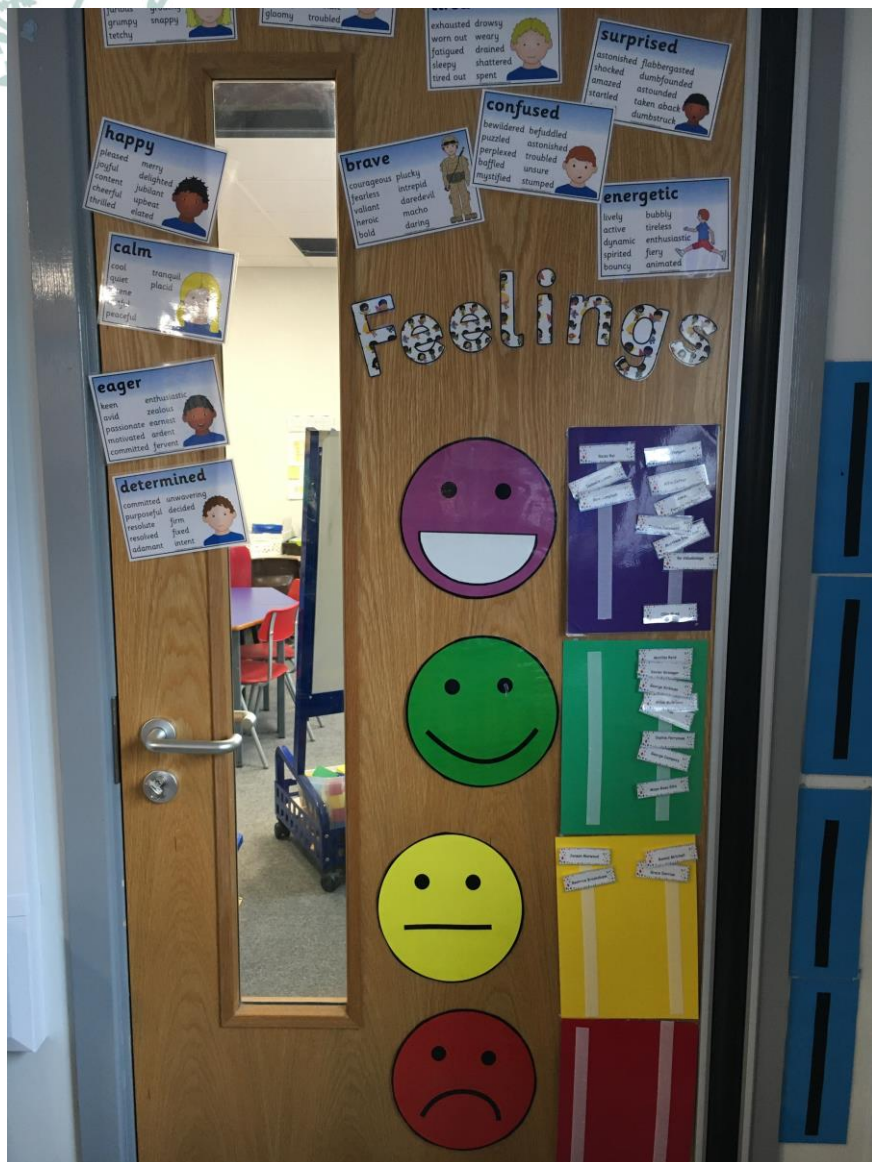
Question	What it might look like		
	Emerging	Developing	Embedding
2.4 To what extent does pastoral support take account of points of stress including deployment/weekending, school moves and caring responsibilities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is some awareness by some staff of the potential points of stress and support offered / provided but a consistent approach needs to be developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some pastoral and support staff are aware of points of stress including postings, <u>deployments</u> and weekending.• Systems to find out about military postings and forthcoming deployments from parents are in place but may not be consistently effective.• Contact has been made with local military bases to ascertain any important deployment / training patterns which could impact on the children, but this may not be fully effective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All pastoral and support staff are well informed about postings, <u>deployments</u> and weekending; are knowledgeable about the potential negative impact of these; and are trained in how best to provide appropriate support. These may include supporting a child to research and map a deployed or weekending parent's location and / or providing resources for Armed Forces children to maintain connections during periods of parental separation.• Upcoming unit moves, deployment plans or individual family moves are communicated to all relevant staff in a timely manner• Systems to find out about military postings and forthcoming deployments from parents are in place and are generally effective.• Opportunities in the curriculum may be created to support Armed Forces children and their peers to understand where deployed parents are stationed.



Le Cateau Primary, Catterick



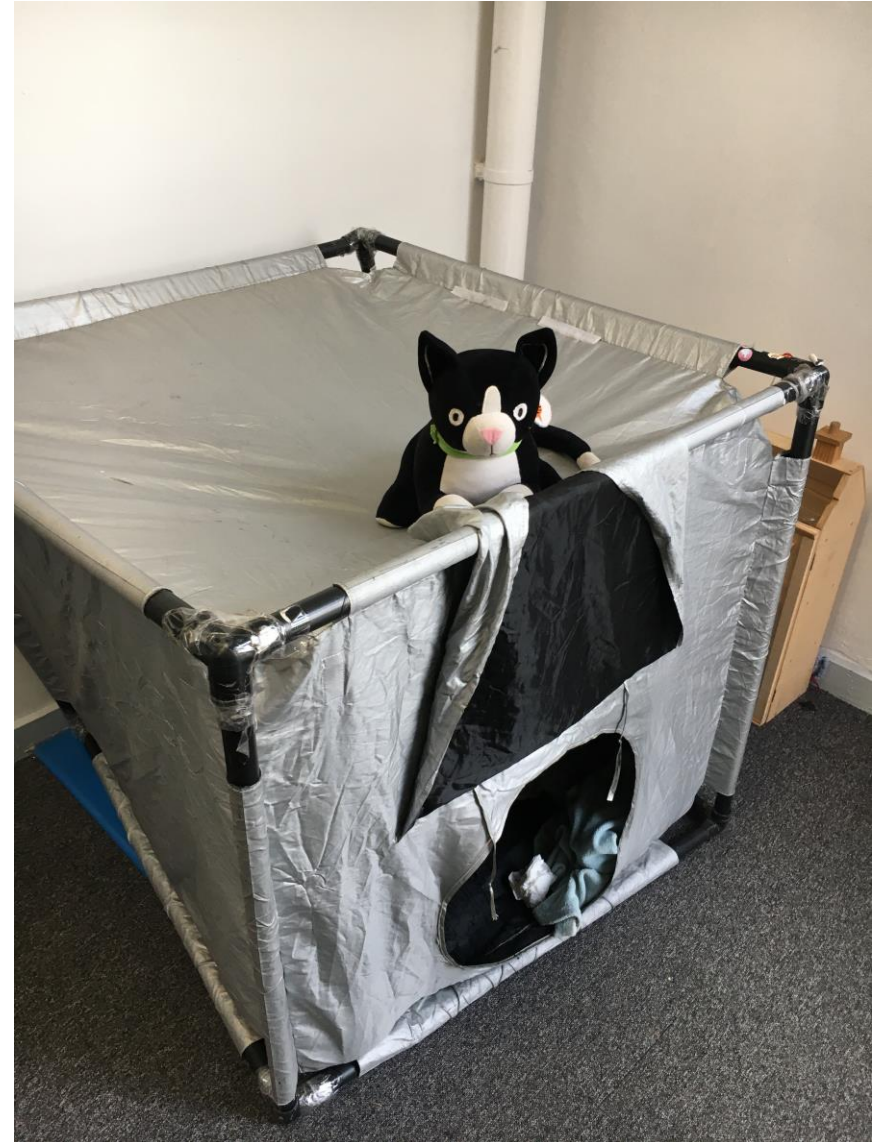
Wavells



Le Cateau



Carnagill Primary Academy, Catterick





Cambrai Primary Academy, Catterick



Wavells Federation, Catterick





What does your school do?



MoTMC April 2023



Celebrating Military Children

Each April, we get to recognise the important role that military children play in the Armed Forces family. NSI provides special opportunities for military children to have their voices heard. Learn more below.



Competition Opens 1 April & closes 30 April 2023.

Month of the Military Child — Never Such Innocence

Competition

The theme of this year's poetry and art competition is: **Friends Near and Far.**

The competition is open to triservice children, with a currently serving or veteran parent and bereaved children, 6-18 years old.

Enter below!

Field of Dandelions by Lara, 9-11, Army, 2022
Competition Winner



What are schools doing?



Local Updates



What's coming up?



Armed Forces' Children: the board's role

Free Governor Network Meeting

This network meeting will:

- Provide an overview of the strengths that Service children bring to schools and the challenges they face
- Discuss the Government's Service Pupil Premium funding
- Introduce governors to an evidence-based tool to support them and school leaders evaluate their provision (the Thriving Lives Toolkit)
- Give updates on current projects (such as the Festival of Friends) and plans for development work in 2023
- Facilitate a forum for sharing good practice and exploring solutions to challenges

There will be two further meetings across the year aimed at supporting schools with one or more Service children.



Join

Matt Blyton

Oxfordshire County Council
School Improvement Consultant

For the first of three networking meetings

Armed Forces' Children: the board's role

Monday 12 December 2022

19:00-20:30

Online via MS Teams

Please book your place via

www.GovernorHub.com

or by emailing

Governor Services on

GovernorServices@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Places are free for all Oxfordshire Governors

This session is relevant to all school boards but particularly those with one or more Service children on their roll.



- **Future meetings for you:**
 - Wed 14 June 2023
(Book via SLA Online)
- **Governors' evening networks**
 - Wed 22nd March
 - Tues 6th June
(Book via Governor Hub)
- **Festival of Friends celebration**
 - 22nd June
- **Autumn conferences x 2**



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Resources to support Oxfordshire schools

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

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 contact me if interested



Ideas & problem solving





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.

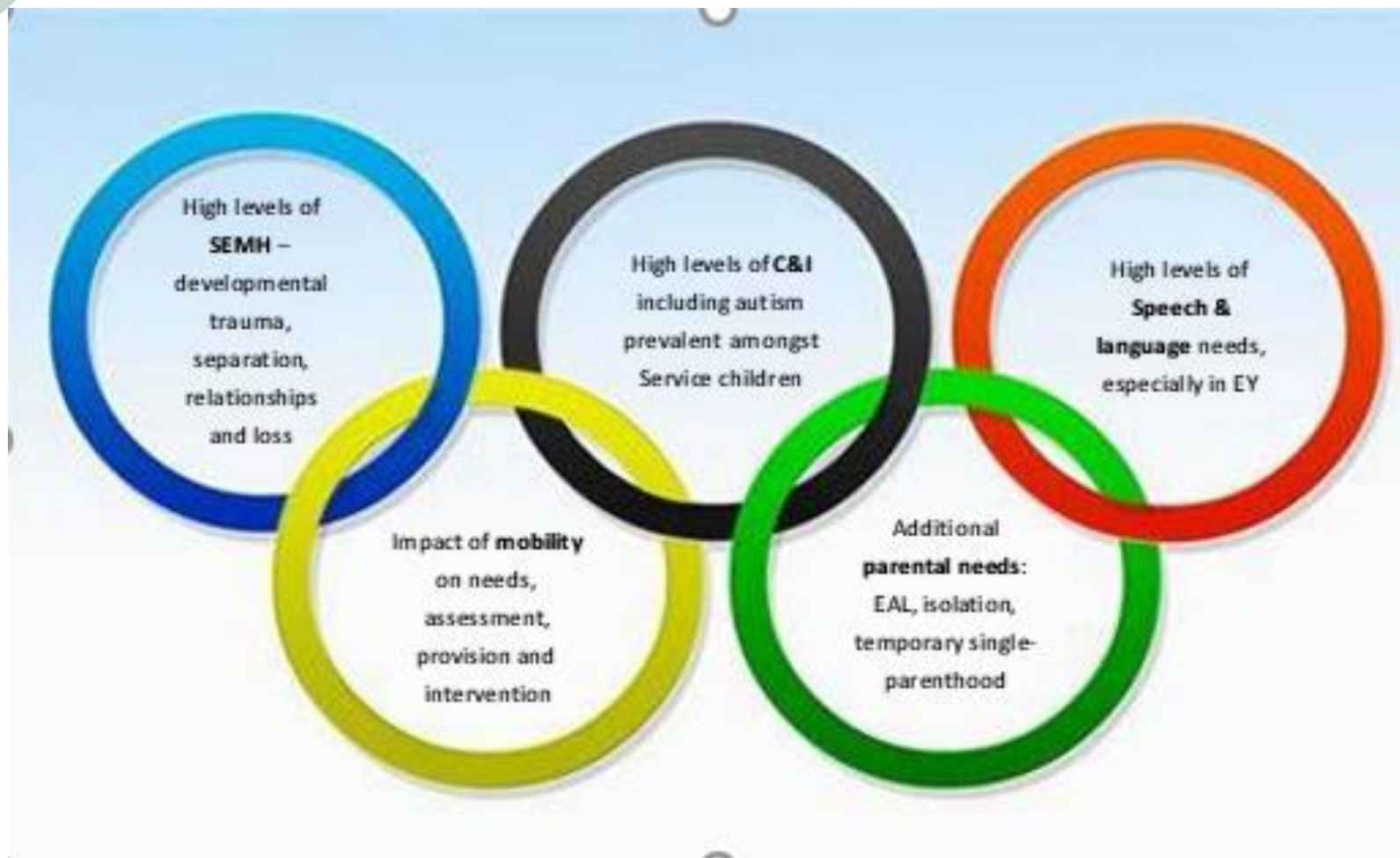
Living in our Shoes: Understanding the needs of UK Armed Forces families (MOD: June 2020)

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:

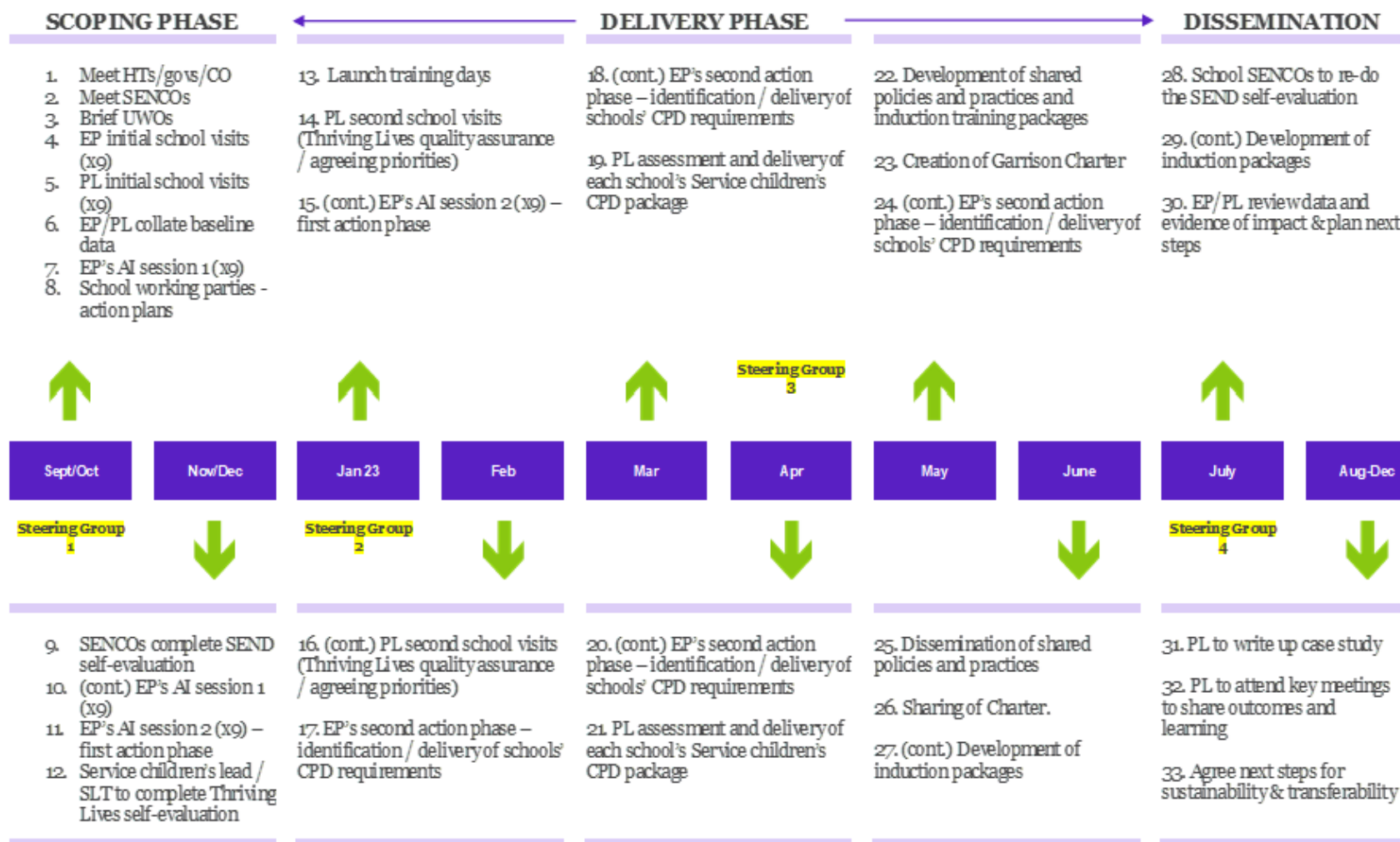
- i. Current and appropriate training**
- ii. Clear and effective assessment**
- iii. Accessing the right external support.**





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.





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