

SERVICE FAMILIES NEWSLETTER



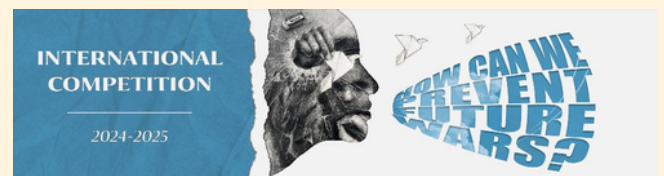
OCTOBER 2024

Never Such Innocence Competition 2024 - 2025

The theme for this year's international competition is *How can we prevent future wars?*

What you need to know about the competition:

- Opens 20 September - Closes 28 February
- Winners announced 18 April
- Free to enter!
- Open to young people (9-18 years old) in any country, in any language!
- Enter in ONE or ALL of the competition areas: Poetry, Art, Speech and/or Song
- Individual or Group Entries
- All participants receive a personalised certificate of commendation
- Click [HERE](#) to learn more!



Come and Speak to Citizens Advice York.....

Are you facing any issues or challenges? Whether it's about work, housing, benefits, debt, or any other concern, we're here to help.

When: Every Tuesday 10:00-13:30
Where: Hurst Hall Community Centre, 1 Border Road, Sirehall, York YO32 5SR

Our friendly adviser is ready to listen and provide free, confidential advice on any topic. No appointment needed - just drop in!

Advice Line: 0800 278 7895
<https://www.citizensadviceyork.org.uk/advice/>

Citizens Advice York

We offer free & impartial advice on:

Benefits
Debt
Housing
Employment
And much more



Citizens Advice York will be at the Community Centre every Tuesday 1000-1330 Hrs .

Click below to find out more.

[GET ADVICE](#)



Information



Forces Families Jobs

Forces Families Jobs is the go-to place for training, employment and volunteer roles for family members of currently serving UK military personnel.

Apply for jobs and access employment and training opportunities with companies and organisations who are Forces family friendly.

Click here and use the link to find out more.



AGAI 50 and the Guide for Non-UK Nationals and Unit Support - Updated and Re-published

Both AGAI 50 and the Guide for Non-UK Nationals and Unit Support have been republished. The AGAI and the Guide, which is available on both the Personal Services SharePoint site and Defence Connect, are only accessible via MODnet/Defence Gateway. The SharePoint site also contains copies of the unit letters featured in the AGAI and Guide and a version of the PowerPoint presentation for annual briefings.

Please contact HIVE if assistance is required.

[#armyhiveinfo](#) [#britisharmy](#) [#ArmedForces](#) [#armyfamily](#)



Dandelion Military Families

Dandelion Military Families is a grassroots organisation committed to improving military parental mental health and early parenthood experiences. We believe the key to ensuring military families enjoy a fulfilling life, despite the inevitable challenges parenthood and military life throw our way, is by bringing families together around shared attitudes, values, interests, experiences and goals. Thus improving the social and emotional connection often lacking in military life and strengthening protective factors in mental health. We are here for all UK military families, irrespective of rank, service, location and circumstance. Click here to find out more.

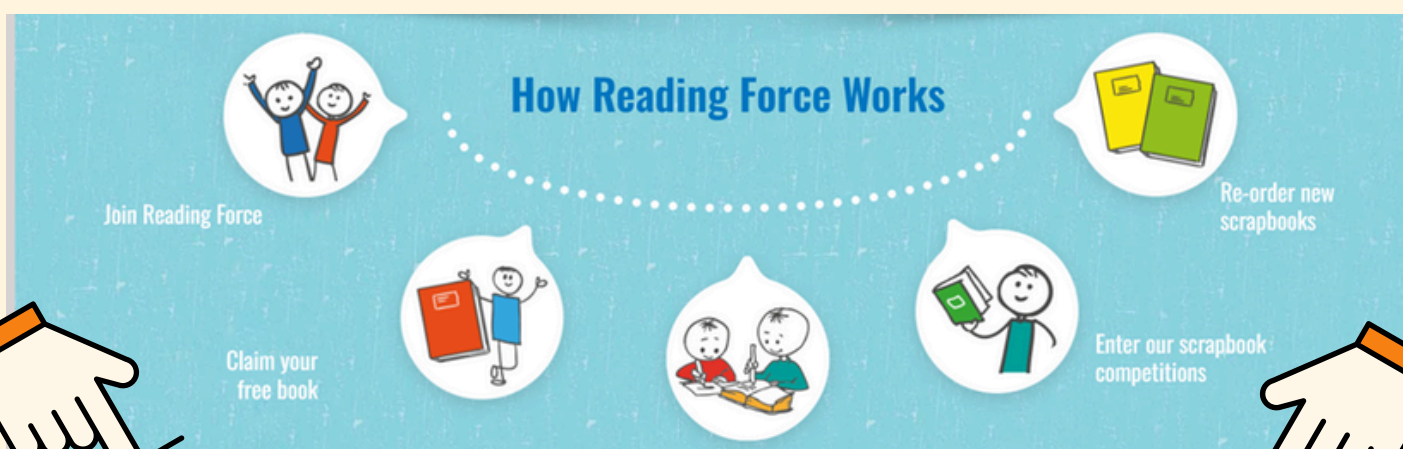


Information



Keeping Forces families close & together through sharing stories

Reading Force support serving families and ex-forces families by providing fun free reading resources and materials.



About Reading Force



General Sir Nicholas Carter KCB CBE
DSO ADC, former Chief of the
Defence Staff, supports Reading Force

"Reading Force is an excellent scheme and I am very happy to lend my support."

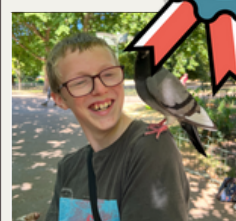
The idea behind Reading Force is simple. Service families under pressure often find it difficult to communicate. It is often challenging to explain what you are up to, when you are deployed in demanding circumstances, several thousand miles from home. And it is equally difficult to understand the perspective of those at home, whose life might seem mundane, but who have to shoulder the burden of living alone and the uncertainty of not knowing what deployment involves.

No amount of telephone calls can ever close that gap, so making the connection through informal reading groups, sharing feedback through the vehicle of a Reading Force scrapbook and using it as a basis for communication is a tremendous idea. I wish it had been around to support the many deployments my family has experienced in my career. I wholeheartedly commend the idea to you."

Get involved



Little Trooper of the month



Oliver Pearson

Congratulations Oliver!
Fantastic to have a Little Trooper
of the month from York. You can
read about Oliver [here](#)



Information



Stockeld Park Christmas Adventure

Wednesday 20th November

Would your family would like to visit Stockeld Park this Christmas time where you can take a magical trip around the illuminated Enchanted Forest and play in its playgrounds, explore the giant Snowflake Maze, have fun on the Ice Rink and discover the Playhive indoor play centre? (please see www.stockeldpark.co.uk for further details and more photos). If so, discounted tickets are available from Army Welfare Service Community Support.

STOCKELD PARK

Adventure awaits whatever the weather!



Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Interested in some festive fun where you'll create your own beautiful Christmas wreath for your front door with festive decorations such as cinnamon sticks, oranges, pine cones, ribbon and baubles?

Sessions at Hurst Hall Community Centre, Strensall and Low Moor Centre, Fulford.

The cost is just £9, payable in advance to book your place, to cover materials and will also include a glass of mulled wine (or soft drink) and a mince pie!

To register your interest, please email michael.bailey124@mod.gov.uk and state your preferred days/times (end November/early December).





COFFEE

EVERYONE IS
welcome here

**MORE THAN JUST A
COFFEE MORNING**

STAY CONNECTED, MEET PEOPLE, HAVE FUN!!



**EVERY THURSDAY
9.30 TO 11.00 AM**

LOW MOOR CENTRE,
BRAY ROAD, FULFORD



TEA



Come along for a brew, chat and
let the little ones play.

All military families & serving
personnel welcome

Join 21 MMR Welfare Team on Fridays at Hurst
Hall. £1 per family for refreshments

9.30 - 11.00 a.m.

Contact 01904 442989

Or e-mail

21MMR-RHQ-WELFARE-CLERK@MOD.GOV.UK

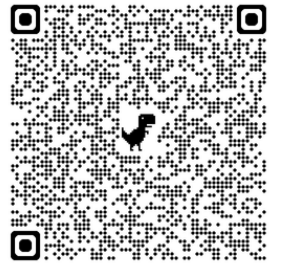
What's on?

There's so much on offer in and around York - take a look!



HALF TERM

Visit York





Have you recently moved to York?

[Click here to
view Visit
York's Only in
York tourist
video on
YouTube](#)

[Click here to
explore 15
things to do in
a day in York](#)

VisitYork

Got children? Click on the
logo below for more
information and ideas.

**Little
Vikings**
York for kids



Useful contacts



Army Welfare Service
Serving the Service Community

For all Personal Support enquiries and referrals please contact the Intake and Assessment Team (the AWS welfare single point of contact) at:

RC-AWS-IAT-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk or 01904 882053 (civ) / 94777 3053 (mil)



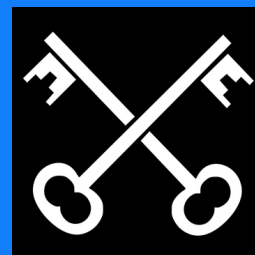
21 Multi-Role Medical Regiment

WO2 Nikki Robson

Email: 21MMR-RHQ-WELFARE-0MAILBOX@MOD.GOV.UK
Tel: 01904 442989

(Out of hours welfare please call the guardroom on 01904 442864 and ask for the Duty Welfare Officer)

Unit Welfare Clerk
Mrs Susan Wilson
Email: 34Hosp-rhq-welfare-clerk@mod.gov.uk



2 Signals Regiment

SSgt Katie Mancey

katie.mancey795@mod.gov.uk

welfare2signals@hotmail.com



01264 554004



contact@aff.org.uk



www.aff.org.uk



Beccy Dixon
Service Families Liaison
Officer



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SERVICE FAMILIES LIAISON OFFICER

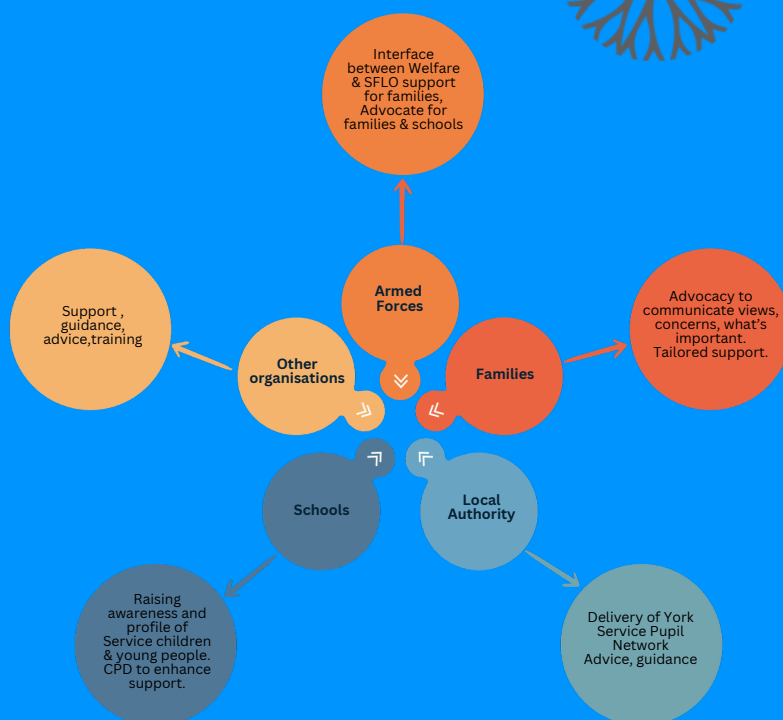
Supporting the Armed Forces



Having spent many years as part of the military community in the RAF, I have experienced first hand the challenges that are inherent to duty and service within the Armed Forces (eg, frequent moves, long periods of separation, deployment, little or no contact) and have witnessed the impact they can have on military families and children. The impact that military life has on families should never be underestimated.

I interface across all areas working both proactively and reactively offering support, advice and guidance.

Working collaborative is key to improving the scale and quality of support for the military community and our impact on Service children & young people's lives.



Beccy Dixon
Service Families
Liaison Officer



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Service Families' Liaison Officer

A message from me...

I hope you have all had a great start to the academic year and that your children are enjoying all that school life has to offer.

Half term is creeping closer! There's lots to do in and around York this half term. Take a look at the websites in this newsletter for ideas and inspiration. Remember fun times don't always have to cost an arm and a leg or indeed anything at all! York is a beautiful city with so much to offer. How about a visit to the Railway Museum, a walk on the ancient walls or further afield to the North Yorkshire Moors.

'We don't want to be any different; we just want to be understood'
- Service children voice

The statement above underpins the reason I do what I do; raising awareness of Service children & young people, their families and the challenges Armed Forces children and families may face. Raising awareness with schools, local authorities and other organisations, develops understanding; it's impact, professionals are more confident and better equipped to support Service children and young people.

Please feel free to contact me.

I wish you all a very relaxing and fun half term holiday!

Beccy

For more
information please
follow this link:



**THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST**

