

SERVICE FAMILIES NEWSLETTER



MAY 2025

Digital Deployment Pack

For young people from armed forces communities.

Forces Children Scotland has launched tailored digital support to help young people overcome unique deployment challenges. An interactive deployment rollercoaster is at the heart of this resource, providing lots of information, advice, and downloadable resources to help understand how they may feel at various points of the Deployment Cycle.

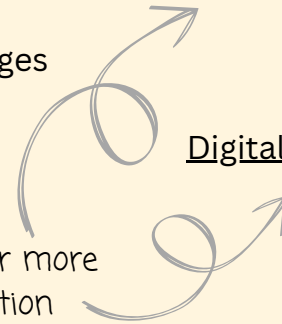
Deployment can be challenging, bringing feelings of uncertainty, anxiety, and isolation throughout the seven stages of the cycle. Consultations with this community, led by the charity, evidenced a need for child-friendly, accessible information.



[Launch information](#)

[Digital Deployment Pack](#)

Click her for more
information



DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN



Deployment support

If your family is preparing for a deployment there are resources that can help make life a little bit easier for your children.

[Deployment Support Information](#)

AFF, [RAF Families Federation](#) , [Naval Families Federation](#) and [@Service Children in State Schools - SCISS](#) have collaborated to put together a guide to the different organisations that can offer support.

Click the link above to find out more.



Service Children Awards 2025



The Service Children Awards took place on Thursday 24h April at The Garden Rooms in Leyburn.

The Service Children Awards is an opportunity to reflect on the incredible achievements of children & young people from military connected families. It's also an opportunity to thanks those that work tirelessly to support them. Hundreds of people across York and North Yorkshire took the time to nominate and share such inspiring stories; the judging panel certainly had a difficult task selecting the winners.

It was a privilege to be asked to support the event and present an award on the day. It was a fabulous occasion. Guests were entertained superbly by British Army Band Catterick Grahame Shepherd MBE was responsible for hosting the awards ceremony and made all of our guests feel welcome and at ease.

Congratulations to all and thank you to everyone who nominated.



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.



Wraparound childcare - European expansion

The MOD Wraparound Childcare scheme (WAC) has been expanded to include some locations in Europe as well as for children at Defence Children Services settings. For more information on WAC overseas and whether you will be eligible, read on here:

[Wraparound childcare Europe](#)
[#armyfamilies](#) [#childcare](#) [#armychildren](#)

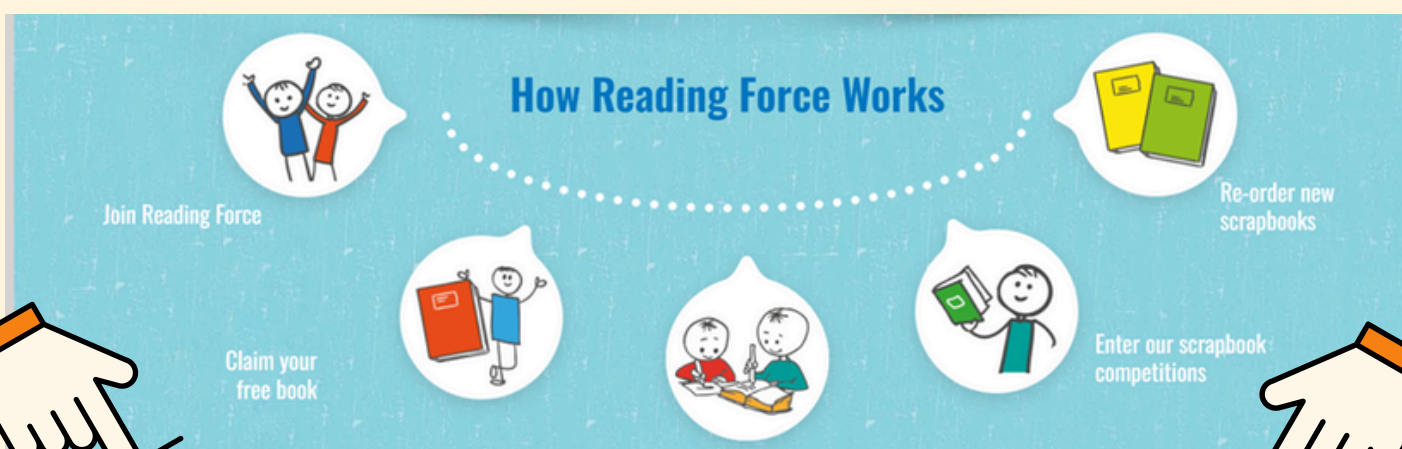


Information



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."

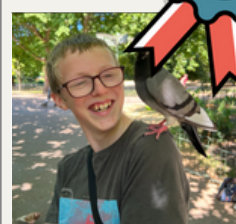
The idea behind Reading Force is simple. Service families under pressure often find it difficult to communicate. It is often challenging to explain what you are up to, when you are deployed in demanding circumstances, several thousand miles from home. And it is equally difficult to understand the perspective 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](#)





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



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.



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

Welfare Officer: Capt Kyle Bruce

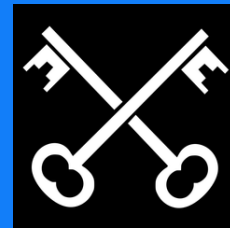
21MMR-RHQ-WELFARE-OFFR@MOD.GOV.UK

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 to the Duty Welfare Officer)

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



2 Signals Regiment

UWO
Capt Mark Davies

Unit Welfare SNCO
SSgt Katie Mancey

WO2 Carl White

2sig-spsqn-welfare-groupmailbox@mod.gov.uk

Civ: 01904 651572 | Welfare Mob : 07973817562



01264 554004



contact@aff.org.uk



www.aff.org.uk



Beccy Dixon
Service Families Liaison
Officer



07895 202551



r.dixon@ebor.adademy

What's on?



**ARMY
WELFARE
SERVICE**



PLAY SESSIONS

For Service children aged 5 - 10 years

Strensall: Tuesdays 5.00pm - 6.30pm

Fulford: Thursdays 5.15pm - 6.45pm



Arts & crafts



Sports



Games



Baking



Messy play



Imaginative play

Fun activities Make friends Try new things
Supports well-being Supports learning

YOUTH CLUB

For Service young people aged 11 - 16 years

Strensall: Tuesday 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Fulford: Wednesdays 5.30pm - 7.00pm



Pool



Arts & crafts



Sports



Baking

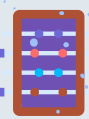
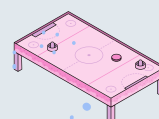


Table football



Air hockey



Table tennis



Trips

Somewhere to go Something to do Someone to talk to
Make friends Fun activities Supports well-being
Try new things Learn new skills

Young people can bring a non-Service friend with them.

Location:

- **Strensall:** Hurst Hall Community Centre, Border Road YO32 5SR
- **Fulford:** Low Moor Centre, Bray Road Y10 4JG

Sessions cost £1 and there is also a tuck shop selling sweets. Please contact Michael Bailey, AWS Community Development Worker, for more formation. Email: michael.bailey124@mod.gov.uk Tel: 07767 008982



SERVICE FAMILIES LIAISON OFFICER

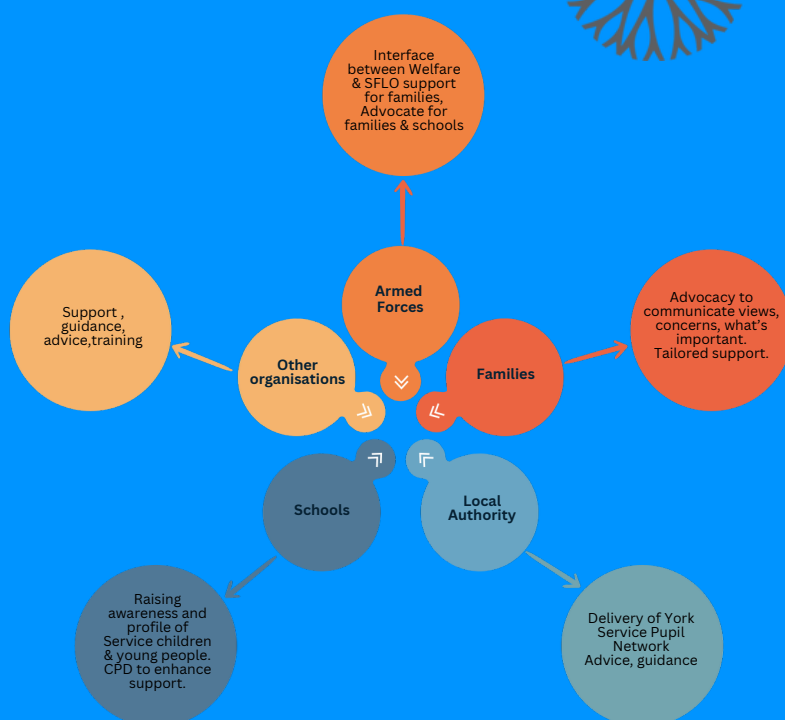
Supporting the Armed Forces



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



07895 202551



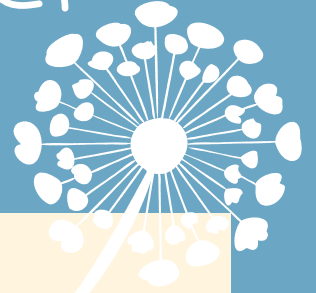
r.dixon@ebor.academy





Service Families' Liaison Officer

A message from me...



Hello everyone!

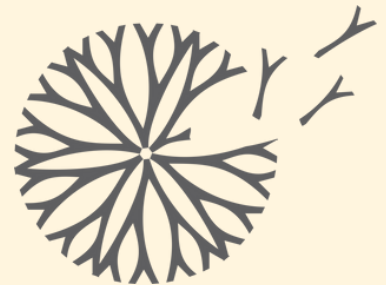
April may have flown by but it has been packed with so many activities to celebrate Month of the Military Child. I feel very fortunate and privileged to be involved; to raise awareness and help recognise and celebrate the contributions made by our wonderful Service children & Young People and wider communities.

The Service Children Awards was an incredible event and the team are hoping to repeat it next year with the hope even more children, young people and organisations can be recognised and celebrated.

I have really enjoyed celebrating Month of the Military Child. It was great to see and hear about so many ways Service children are being recognised and celebrated across school communities.

Enjoy the rest of the term!

Beccy Dixon



For more
information please
follow this link:



**THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST**

