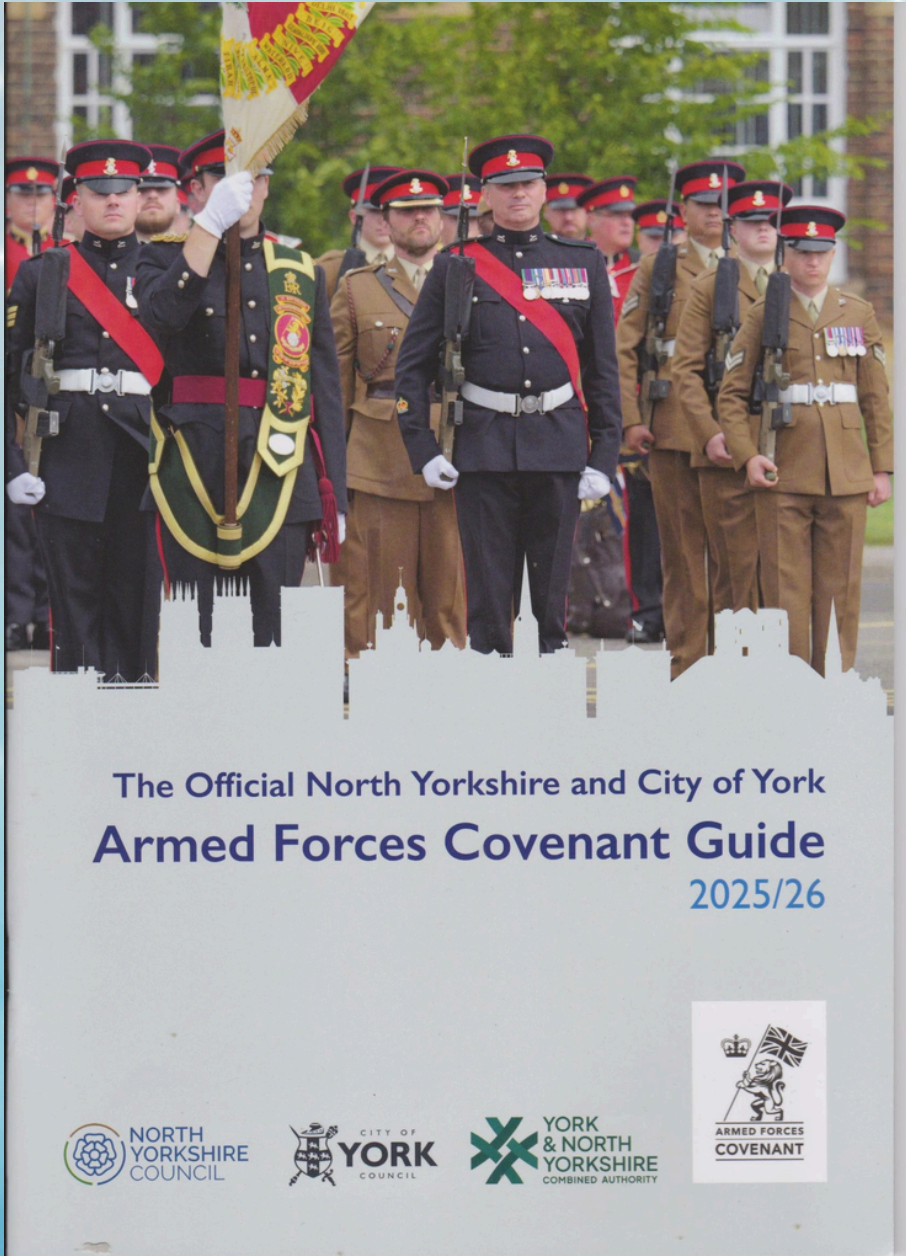


Service Families Newsletter

December 2025



Armed Forces Covenant Guide

The official guide is the North Yorkshire and City of York Armed Forces Covenant Guide 2025/26, a joint publication by North Yorkshire Council, City of York Council, and the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, available both online and in print.

It serves as a comprehensive resource for service members, veterans, and their families, offering information on health, mental health, housing, education, and employment, along with contact details for relevant charities.

What does the guide covers?

Health & Wellbeing
Education & Employment
Housing and benefits
Charity contact details

The guide is part of the councils' commitment under the Armed Forces Covenant to ensure fair access to services.

For more information scan the QR code or visit the website in the image below.

North Yorkshire and City of York Armed Forces Online Directory

North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council are proud to be supporting this directory of support organisations, charities and businesses. The aim is to have a central database to help the Armed Forces personnel have easy access to key organisations across Yorkshire.

The directory works on all devices with a browser including mobile, tablets, PC, Laptop, Smart TV, Xbox and PlayStation. Simply visit the website www.northyorksafdirectory.com on any device to view the businesses and organisations listed for support. This will be continuously updated and added to.

There is no download or app to install. Simply visit the website and save this to your home screen for future use. Or you can scan the QR code to link to the website.

If you're a business selling products or services that will support veterans, a charitable organisation or health organisation in North Yorkshire or City of York, you can add your details directly, free of cost, by clicking on the add business/organisation button in the top menu. It will take around 48 hours to go live.

www.northyorksafdirectory.com

My Business Client Ltd is proud to be working with North Yorkshire and City of York Councils to help deliver the Forces Guide and Directory for North Yorkshire and City of York.



How to access the guide:

- Online: It is available as an e-book and an online directory.
- In print: Hard copies are available at community locations.

Armed Forces Covenant Guide

Events



Why do armed forces families need celebrating? 2026 Awards

Armed forces families play a crucial, often unseen role in supporting service members and the broader forces community. Their sacrifices are significant: frequent relocations, long periods of separation, and the constant challenge of adapting to the uncertainties and stresses of military life.

These families demonstrate resilience and strength whilst maintaining stability at home while their loved ones are away. The Celebrating Forces Families Awards acknowledges their dedication, the emotional and practical hardships they endure, and their contribution to our community.

We also aim to gain a greater public understanding and appreciation of the military's human dimension beyond uniformed personnel. Recognising these families promotes a sense of belonging and support within the community, reinforcing the important role they play.



Celebrating the Heart Behind the Uniform

Through heartfelt events and shared stories, we recognise their sacrifices and celebrate their resilience

Join our mission to honour the families of our Armed Forces!

- ★ Nominate a deserving family member or organisation to recognise their dedication and Support to the Armed Forces Families.
- ★ Share their inspiring stories to spread gratitude and awareness, via our podcast and news.
- ★ Volunteer, donate, or spread the word

WWW.CELEBRATINGFORCESFAMILIES.CO.UK

**Nominate
here**





Information



CELEBRATING FORCES FAMILIES AWARDS

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WWW.CELEBRATINGFORCESFAMILIES.CO.UK

HOUNDS FOR HEROES
Registered Charity No. 1154359 & SC043751

www.houndsforheroes.com

VETERANS' FOUNDATION **NDNA**
National Day Nurseries Association

Childcare Works

"I couldn't have achieved employment in the nursery without the support of NDNA, it has changed my life. I am really grateful."
Jade, Trainee Nursery Assistant

Are you a Veteran or partner of a Veteran? Would you like to know more about a career in childcare?

"Joining NDNA's Childcare Works Project has given me a lifetime and the confidence to start a new chapter in my life. I can't thank you enough for all your help, support and understanding."
Linda, Trainee Nursery Assistant

Find Out More
findin.welcome.ndna.org.uk
07551 441637 / 01824 730543
@NDNAUK Twitter | ndna.org.uk National Day Nurseries Association

iHIVE BLOG
FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL LOCATION INFORMATION

- Are you considering 'taking off' on an overseas posting?
- Or have you already 'landed' on an overseas assignment?

The iHIVE Blog holds worldwide information to help you consider if a location is right for you and your family. The iHIVE Blog also hosts Overseas Location Guides covering a multitude of overseas assignment locations.

(Disclaimer: based on the iHIVE Blog are only intended for personal advice, due to MCHD (Personal settings))

www.internationalHIVE.blogspot.com

Or contact iHIVE if you have any questions:
iHIVE: 07551 441637 - ihive@ndna.org.uk
Tel: 07551 441637

HIVE **ARMY**

HM Government **NHS**

SAY YOU SERVED

Tell your GP practice if you've ever served in the UK Armed Forces. It could be relevant to your health and means you'll get the support that's right for you.

Find out more at nhs.uk/veterans

Pinnacle Service Families Working with **Service Infrastructure Organisation**

COME IN, WE'RE OPEN

Living in Service Family Accommodation? Facing issues at home?

Join us at our drop-in sessions at your local housing office. Our friendly team is here to support you. We look forward to seeing you. No appointment needed.

Every Weds between 09:00 and 11:00
Hurst Hall Community Centre

little TROOPERS
Forces Families

READING FORCE

GIVE US TIME
WELFARE UPDATE WINTER 2025

GIVE US TIME
The National Day Nurseries Association

At the end of our holiday season for 24/25, we had supported an amazing 315 families to have time together on breaks and days out, which means that, since 2020, we have now supported more than 1000 families. Thank you for everything you do helping us to help Forces families.

WALLING2RECOVERY

We still have opportunities for families to learn dry stone walling in April 2026 in the Lake District.

Led by Army veteran Andy Docherty, founder of Walling2Recovery, and his team, this break will combine the therapeutic effects of the activities and access to the unspoilt beauty of the Lakes, to make the perfect respite break for active families.

THE DATES FOR THIS BREAK ARE 10 - 12 APRIL

Please note
Over 15s only on these breaks - there will be no provision for younger children
Accommodation is offered in 2-person rooms only
Costs will be £30 per person per day, for full board near in accommodation near Warrick.
Give Us Time and Walling2Recovery are unable to cover the costs of travel!

Book by email - enquiries@giveuslime.org.uk

www.giveuslime.org.uk 07471 663204 - enquiries@giveuslime.org.uk



Share Your Experiences

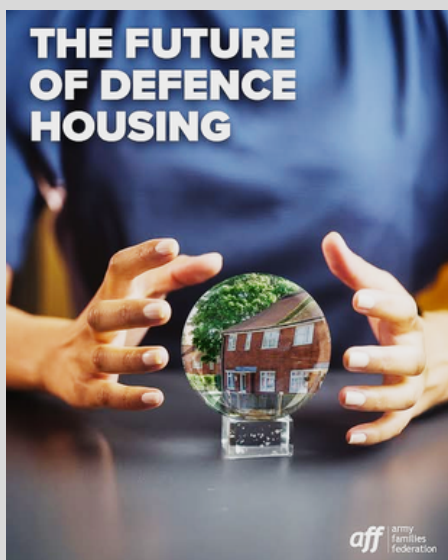
Are you serving overseas or have you returned from an overseas assignment in the past 12 months? If so, we need the benefit of your experience.

The Fam Feds are designing a new tri-Service digital portal to support personnel and families overseas and we're looking for volunteers for informal interviews.



Primary School Aged Children's Overseas Allowance
- Launching January 2026.

Primary School Aged Childcare Overseas (PSACO) Allowance to launch in January 2026. PSACO is the final phase of the Wraparound Childcare (WAC) Scheme, providing a reimbursement for the costs of before and after school childcare in overseas locations where WAC eligibility criteria cannot be met due to local rules and regulations or because Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) accounts are not available. The launch of the PSACO Allowance means eligible Service families will have access to before and after school childcare funding in all overseas locations. PSACO eligibility criteria and guidance will be added to the [Discover my Benefits](#) from January 2026.



Defense Housing

An amazing 6,000 of you answered our call back in June to take part in a questionnaire to shape the future of military housing. The results are in and they've already influenced the new Defence Housing Strategy.

They showed:

Almost 70 per cent of you prefer living in military-only communities.

Upgraded kitchens, bathrooms and thermal efficiency are top priorities for improving current SFA.

SFA for married couples, civil partnerships, and personnel with children, regardless of marital status is a priority.



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION



2025/26 Competition Rules

Using poetry, art and song, we would like you to respond to this year's theme and have your voice heard.

Entries are divided into the following four age categories:

Age 9-11; age 11-14; age 14-16; and age 16-18.

If you have any special educational needs you would like the judging panel to be aware of please make a note on your entry form.

All submissions are given a unique entry number to anonymise the judging process. We kindly request that only the title be written on the entry to ensure the submission may be identified and kept anonymous. All other details about the entrant should be confined to the entry form.

There is no entry fee.

The competition deadline is 27th February 2026

Winners will be notified on, or before, 17th April 2026.

For more details visit: <https://www.neversuchinnocence.com/competition-rules>

Scan here to
find out
more





Calling all
young people.
Your voice
matters!

Are you aged 8-18 and have a parent serving in the military?
We want to hear from you!

What is it about?
Help us understand your experiences of growing up in a military family.

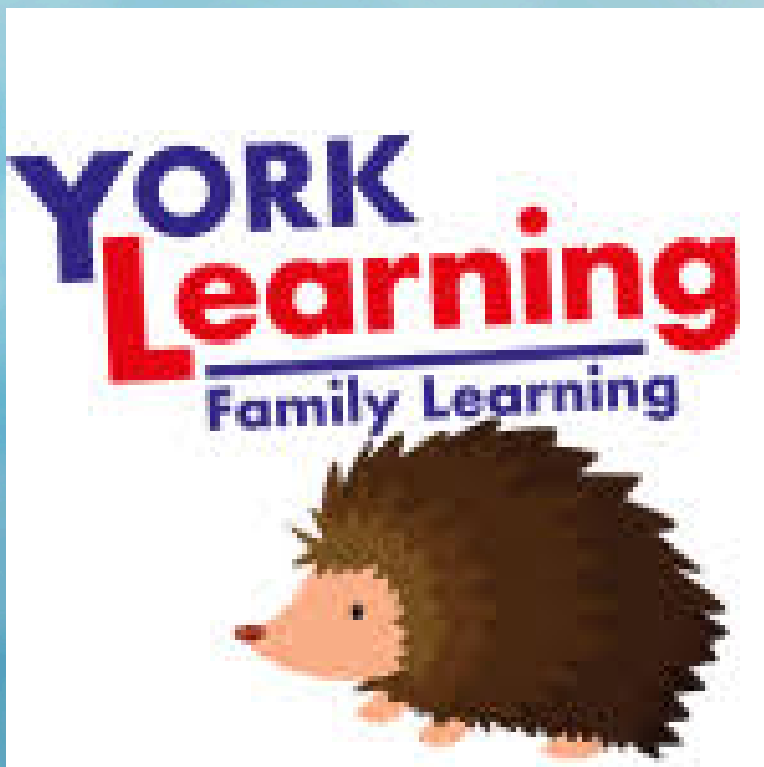
Age 8-11

What do I need to do?
Just complete a short online survey (10-15 minutes). All answers are private!
Scan your age group QR code for more information and to take part!

Age 12-15

Age 16-18

Logos: Northumbria University, THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST, DTU, Edinburgh Napier University, Centre for Military Research, Education & Public Engagement, RAND EUROPE, KCMHR



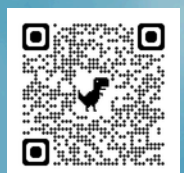
Free Courses for Parents, Grandparents and Carers

Children spend less than 20% of their waking hours at school or pre-school settings, so parents and carers who can support a child's learning will give them a real advantage. Family Learning courses and workshops help you to give your child that head start.

Many courses have a free crèche available, led by highly experienced, qualified staff.

Many of our learners have gone on to volunteer and work in schools and early years settings, along with a host of other jobs. Others do it just for fun and to see the friends they've made along the way.

Scan QR code or click image to find out more





You are invited to a FREE Family Hubs

Christmas Party

Free mince pies, hot drinks, festive crafts
AND presents from Santa!

Drop in!

Wed 3 Dec

Hob Moor
Family Hub
YO24 4PS

10am - 11:30am



Tue 9 Dec

The Avenues
Family Hub
YO31 OUT

10am - 11:30am

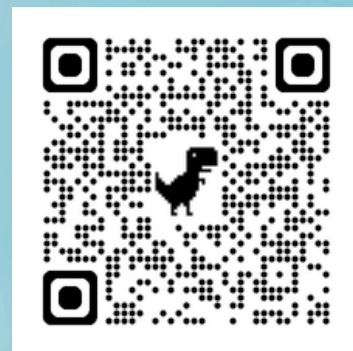
Wed 17 Dec

SEND Central
Clifton Family Hub
YO30 6JA

10am - 11:30am



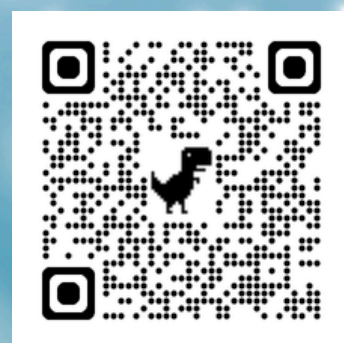
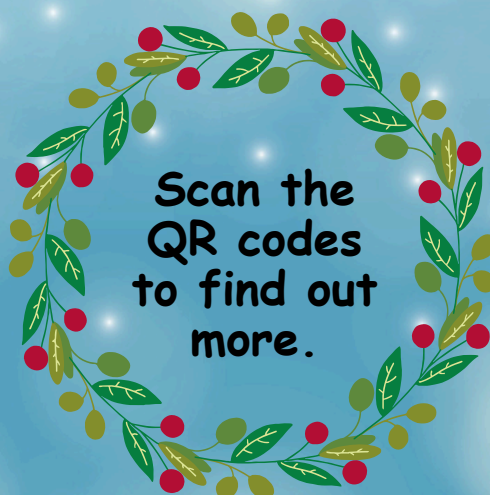
For more info contact
York Family Information Service
fis@york.gov.uk / 01904 554444



YORK 360°



Visit York



Days Out Passes

Please note that these passes are for military personnel and their families. Spouses and partners will have to provide details of their serving partner when booking passes.

Passes for Flamingoland, Piglets, York Minster and Dalby Forest.
Passes for Piglets can be booked and signed for from the Queen Elizabeth Barracks guardroom on 01904 442864. Each pass admits 2 adults and 2 children and are free to book.

Passes for York Minster can also be booked by contacting the guardroom. Please remember to return your pass after use.

Flamingoland passes can be booked through 2 Med Gp by contacting maree.ashford166@mod.gov.uk. They have 8 passes and each pass costs £5.

Dalby Forest parking passes can now be also booked via 2 Med Gp using the same e-mail address. Each pass costs £5 which admits one car with up to 7 seats. This pass normally costs £15.



Service Families' Liaison Officer



Hello everyone!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! I hope you are enjoying what is always a fun and busy term, filled with lots of excitement.

Anytime of the year is hard when our Serving person is away from home, but Christmas is especially difficult. Together, let's spare a thought for those who are separated from their loved ones over the festive period.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



Beccy

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@ rdixon@ebor.academy

Supporters

