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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN  
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN  
ADDYSG YNG NGHYMRU



# MONTHLY BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2025



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# Message from the SSCE Cymru team...

*"As we step into the shortest month of the year, there's much to look forward to. In Wales, February is often called 'y mis bach', or "little month!" Here in the Northern Hemisphere, it's the third month of winter, offering more chances to stay cosy and start preparing for Spring. Schools will also enjoy their half-term break, a perfect time to rest and recharge before the next term.*

*Our team recently met in person to kick off planning for this year's Month of the Military Child in April, and we can't wait to hear from schools about how they plan to celebrate the Service children in their communities. If your school would like support in accessing funding for fun celebration projects, please get in touch or take a look at the [SSCE Cymru Month of the Military Child webpage](#) for further inspiration.*

*And, of course, let's not forget Valentine's Day... Roses are red, Violets are blue, if your school has Service children, we're here to help you!"*



**Millie**  
Programme  
Manager



**Jo**  
Participation  
Lead Officer



**Cara**  
School Liaison  
Officer



**Becca**  
School Liaison  
Officer

# SSCE Cymru team

## Programme Manager



Millie

- Coordinates and delivers SSCE Cymru activities aligned to the SSCE Cymru mission.
- Ensures Service children's experiences are understood and responded to in Wales.
- Represents Wales to share good practice across the UK.

## School Liaison Officers



Cara



Becca

- Work with schools and local authorities to identify Service children and maintain a database of school contacts.
- Promote the SSCE Cymru e-learning package.
- Work with education settings to embed support for Service children:
  - Utilise SSCE Cymru resources (School Toolkit and Tools, Funding guidance)
  - Achieve their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status
  - Celebrate Month of the Military Child
  - Access funding to support Service children and families.
- Identify and promote good practice in schools.

SLOs are funded by:  ARMED FORCES  
EDUCATION  
TRUST

## Participation Lead Officer

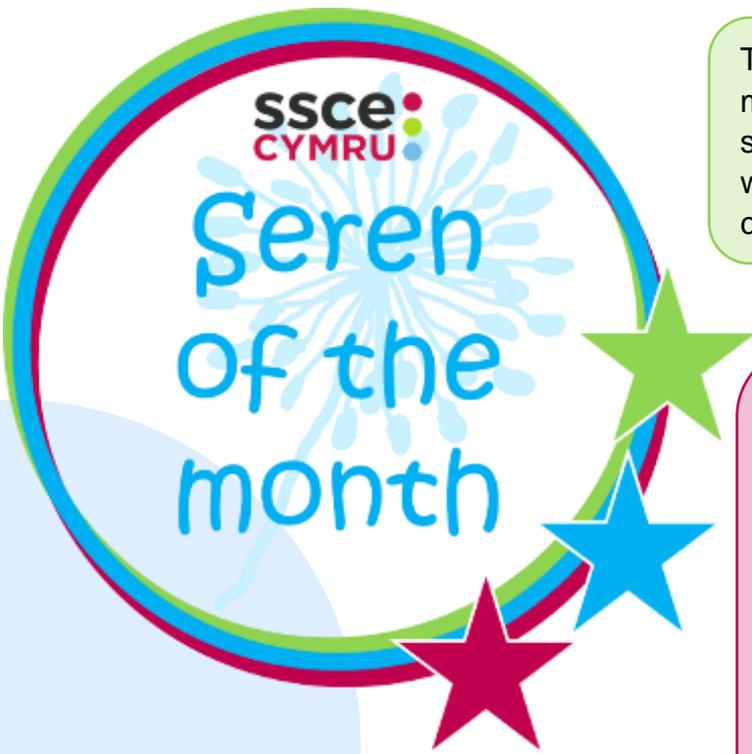


Jo

### Works with schools to:

- Listen to Service children
- Set up Service children clubs
- Facilitate opportunities for Service children to come together to share their experiences
- Celebrate Service children's experiences
- Share the voices of Service children.

Contact:  
[SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:SSCECymru@wlga.gov.uk)



This is an opportunity for our team to publicly recognise an SSCE Cymru STAR, and say thank you to a Service child, member of school staff, work colleague, network member or organisation that have positively collaborated with us or shown exceptional support to Service children in education and their local Armed Forces community. We are grateful to work with some truly inspiring individuals and groups who ensure that Service children continue to feel valued and celebrated here in Wales.

## Seren of the month – February 2025

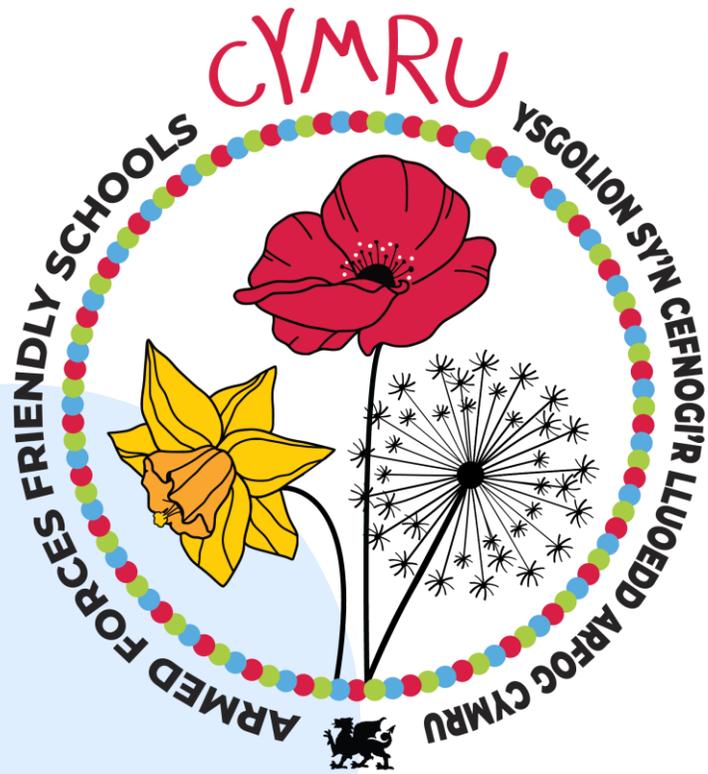
This month, the SSCE Cymru team is thrilled to present Ellie Jones as our Seren! Ellie is currently a Learning Support Assistant for the Learning Links Team at the Vale of Glamorgan Council. We have a wonderful working relationship with Ellie and the team, and we deeply appreciate their continuous efforts in supporting Service children and young people across the Vale. Ellie recently led on the *Service Children - Your Views Project*, developed in partnership with the Service Children at Ysgol Y Ddraig, and is a wonderful example of her dedication to her role. The project will gather the voices of Service children within the Vale and will have an impact on future projects. We are grateful for the event hosted by the Little Troopers Club at Ysgol Y Ddraig Primary School, which gave participating children the chance to share their amazing work with their families. The poster with the QR code survey, now widely available across schools in the Vale, will help ensure that more Service children receive the support they need throughout their educational journey.

A heartfelt thank you to Ellie for your hard work and commitment to this project! We eagerly look forward to hearing the feedback.

A big thanks also goes to the rest of the Learning Links Team for your ongoing support of the SSCE Cymru programme, it is truly appreciated!



**Ellie Jones**  
Vale of Glamorgan Council



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SUPPORTING SERVICE CHILDREN  
IN EDUCATION IN WALES

CEFNOGI PLANT MILWYR MEWN  
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SSCE Cymru's Armed Forces Friendly Schools (AFFS) Cymru initiative was launched in 2022. Schools in Wales complete a series of activities and actions that are linked to the SSCE Cymru School Checklist, including some compulsory elements, in order to achieve their Bronze, then Silver, then Gold status. The objectives are to embed good practice for supporting Service children, create a positive environment for Service children to share their experiences and encourage schools to become more engaged with their Armed Forces community.

This month, we are pleased to congratulate the following schools for achieving their AFFS Cymru status:

**Bronze (renewal):** Llantwit Major High School (Vale of Glamorgan)

**Silver:** Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog (Denbighshire)

**Congratulations** to all schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status.

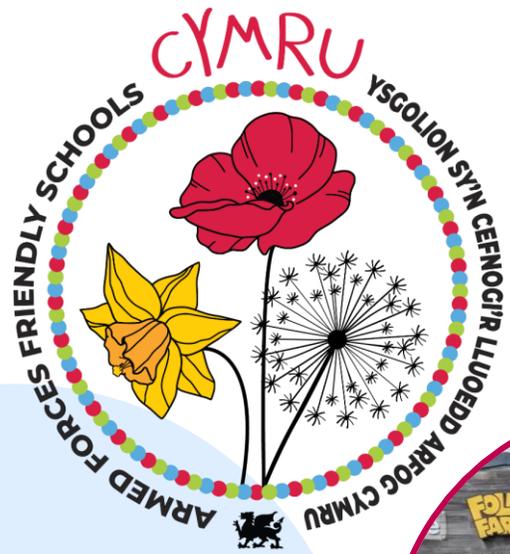
So far, 33 schools have achieved their AFFS Cymru status. 33 have achieved Bronze, 8 have achieved Silver and 4 have achieved Gold!!!



See the next page for images of how schools in Wales have celebrated achieving their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru status.



Click here for further information about Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru



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# SSCE Cymru e-learning

Last year, SSCE Cymru launched our highly anticipated NEW on-demand, bi-lingual, e-learning training package on *Supporting Service children in education in Wales!!!!*

Funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, the SSCE Cymru e-learning training package has been designed to give educators the tools and confidence to understand and support the needs of Service children within their education settings in Wales however, the training can be accessed by anyone who would like to learn more about supporting Service children within education.

This FREE training package consists of nine topics and will take roughly two hours to complete. Your progress will be saved so that you can continue where you left off and revisit the training as required.

## Topics included in the e-learning:

- Introduction to SSCE Cymru
- Armed Forces in Wales
- Service children's experiences
- Education in Wales
- Identifying Service children
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Extra-curricular activities
- Funding to support Service children
- Research and evidence.

*"Great links that I will use and very comprehensive. I loved the videos."*

*"There are several parts of this training that will impact my support and practice within my schools."*

*"The voice clips and case studies were really helpful throughout."*

100% of participants found the e-learning beneficial



ARMED FORCES  
COVENANT  
LLUOEDD ARFOG  
CYFAMOD

# Data and survey requests...

## SSCE Cymru data collection

Previous data held by SSCE Cymru indicates that over 35% of schools in Wales have Service children enrolled, with around half of those having only 1 or 2 Service children.

SSCE Cymru would like to ensure we have a strong understanding of the number and location of Service children in Wales. Therefore, we are requesting that all schools, if they haven't already, complete the digital form [here](#) to provide us with the most accurate record. We kindly ask schools complete this as soon as possible.

To support you with this activity we would recommend your school consider using the templates within [SSCE Cymru's Tool 4](#) to help gather and collate this data.

 See further information here

 FINAL REMINDER!

## Service children ALN survey

SSCE Cymru is conducting a survey with schools in Wales to gain a snapshot of the challenges schools may be facing in supporting Service children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN), and to identify examples of good practice.

The survey is estimated to take between 5-15 minutes to complete.

The information provided will be used to inform practice and policy in relation to supporting Service children with ALN.

**Survey deadline: 31st March 2025.**

 [Click here to complete the survey](#)



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# Month of the Military Child Mis y Plentyn Milwrol



April/Ebrill | #MotMCCymru

## Ways for schools to get involved...

- Understand
- Engage
- Celebrate



See further  
information  
here

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# Dates for the diary...

## 'Purple up' day!!!

Wednesday 30th of April is the day to 'Purple up' for Month of the Military Child in Wales!

- Wear purple
- Create purple artwork and displays
- Take a photo of what you get up to
- Send your photos to [SSCECymru@wlg.gov.uk](mailto:SSCECymru@wlg.gov.uk)
- Post your photo/s on social media (tag @SSCECymru on [X](#) and [Facebook](#)) using the hashtag **#MotMCCymru** – with a message to Service children, thanking them for their important role in the Armed Forces community.

 [Click here to see how others have participated in 'Purple up' day in previous years](#)

## SCiP Alliance Hub Cymru Development Event



**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 10:30-16:30**  
**CARDIFF**

Join us at the SCiP Alliance Hub Cymru Development Event to learn, network, and shape the future of the SCiP Alliance Hub in Wales.

The FREE Hub Cymru Development Event aims to bring together key stakeholders, educators, policymakers, and community leaders to discuss and strategize on how best to support Service children and their families.

 [Click here for further information and sign up to attend the event](#)

# Thriving Lives toolkit webinar series

Service Children's Progression  
 **ALLIANCE**

This year, the SCiP Alliance are hosting a series of FREE webinars for schools.

## Case Study Showcase

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 16:00**

Discover the Naval Children's Charity-funded Case Study Bank, with project team insights on best practices and response for the Thriving Lives Toolkit.

## Principle 6 – Parents are engaged (Survey Tool focus)

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 16:00**

Peter Rose from Tiller Consulting will provide an introduction to the Survey Tool, a key feature of the Thriving Lives Toolkit designed to facilitate sending surveys to parents of Service children.

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[Click here for further information and sign up to attend a webinar](#)

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# SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions

Every month, SSCE Cymru host a series of informal drop-in sessions focusing on specific themes. Come along to any of the sessions that interest you, where members of the SSCE Cymru team will share relevant information, promote resources, coordinate discussions, answer your questions and create opportunities for collaboration.

## FEBRUARY schedule

<b>Mon 3<sup>rd</sup></b> 3pm Funding for supporting Service children	<b>Tue 4<sup>th</sup></b> 2pm Service children voice (Primary)	<b>Wed 5<sup>th</sup></b> 10am Local Authority Action Plan 2pm AFFS Cymru	<b>Thu 6<sup>th</sup></b> 10am Service children voice (Secondary) 3pm AFFS Cymru	<b>Fri 7<sup>th</sup></b> 10am Month of the Military Child
<b>Mon 10<sup>th</sup></b> 2pm SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit	<b>Tue 11<sup>th</sup></b> 3pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru	<b>Wed 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thu 13<sup>th</sup></b> 10am Funding for supporting Service children 2pm LA Action Plan	<b>Fri 14<sup>th</sup></b> 10am Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru
<b>Mon 17<sup>th</sup></b> 10am Service children voice (Primary)	<b>Tue 18<sup>th</sup></b> 2pm Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru	<b>Wed 19<sup>th</sup></b> 10am SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit 2pm SC voice (Secondary)	<b>Thu 20<sup>th</sup></b> 10am AFFS Cymru 3pm Month of the Military Child	<b>Fri 21<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Mon 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tue 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Wed 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Thu 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fri 28<sup>th</sup></b>

 See the further details, including the full timetable and joining instructions here

# SSCE Cymru drop-in sessions

## MARCH schedule

**Mon 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Tue 4<sup>th</sup>**

**3pm** Funding for supporting Service children

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Thu 6<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** AFFS Cymru  
**3pm** SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** Month of the Military Child

**Mon 10<sup>th</sup>**

**3pm** Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

**Tue 11<sup>th</sup>**

**3.30pm** Service children voice (Primary)

**Wed 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Thu 13<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** Funding for supporting Service children  
**3pm** AFFS Cymru

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Mon 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Tue 18<sup>th</sup>**

**4pm** Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

**Wed 19<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

**Thu 20<sup>th</sup>**

**3.30pm** SC voice (Secondary)

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup>**

**3pm** Month of the Military Child

**Tue 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Wed 26<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru

**Thu 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Fri 28<sup>th</sup>**

**10am** SCiP Alliance Thriving Lives Toolkit

# Funding...

## Supporting Service Children in Education in Wales Fund (SSCE-WF)

In 2024/25, schools and local authorities (LAs) in Wales can apply for funding throughout the year, to deliver projects specific to supporting Service children in education, linked to the curriculum in Wales.



Ariennir gan  
**Lywodraeth Cymru**  
Funded by  
**Welsh Government**

£1,000 projects – open to all schools and local authorities in Wales.

£3,000 projects – open to schools who have achieved their Armed Forces Friendly Schools Cymru Bronze status and all local authorities.



See further  
information  
here

**NEXT  
DEADLINE:**  
7<sup>th</sup> February

## SSCE Cymru case management support

Case management is available to schools that have an individual Service child or a very small number of Service children with a specific need related to the impact of their Armed Forces lifestyle.



See further  
information  
here

**NEW**

SSCE-WF good practice  
examples document.

Available here

## SSCE Cymru funding advice document

This document provides advice from the SSCE Cymru team for schools and local authorities, to assist them when applying for funding to support Service children / local Armed Forces community.

It also includes a checklist of suggested actions to help when preparing and completing a funding application as well as a list of funding ideas and suggestions.

Available  
here