Monthly SCC Newsletter

November 2026



Remembrance

This month we united across faiths, cultures and backgrounds to remember the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Read on to find out about the Festival of Remembrance.

Social Media

Please follow, like and share our social media accounts.

Champion's message...



I hope you all had a well-earned break over half-term and that you have come back with renewed energy. This half-term was always my favourite time of year as a teacher. The children are more settled into their new year groups, there are more opportunities to come together as communities such as Harvest celebrations and, dare I say it, Christmas is just around the corner. I can't wait to start singing all those festive favourites once again!
I have really enjoyed planning the Festival of Remembrance this year and I do hope you all enjoyed taking part. I am especially proud of the children who worked with me to create the most beautiful artwork which was displayed at Ripon Cathedral. Although it was a very simple activity it had big impact as it reminded those viewing it that our Service children can easily blend into a school community but they are all different and have unique experiences. If you missed out on places this year I am hoping we can welcome even more people to our Month of the Military Child Assembly, watch this space for exciting news and read on to see how you can get involved.

Hopefully I will see you all soon and if you need any advice or signposting please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Angela

Events

Click here to see some highlights



Festival of Remembrance 2026

Hundreds of service children from across North Yorkshire came together for an annual Festival of Remembrance to honour members of the Armed Forces and to celebrate the contribution of children from military families.

The moving ceremony, which is in its 14th year was held at Ripon Cathedral.

This year's theme of "belonging" reflected the shared experiences, resilience and connections that unite service children despite the challenges that can come with military life.

The service on Monday (November 9) was attended by more than 600 children and young people from 29 schools in the county and commemorated members of the Armed Forces who had paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Highlights during the service included talented musicians from Ripon Grammar School accompanying all hymns, while young members of Service Children's Community Choir performed a choral rendition of "If You Hadn't Been There" by the late Dolly Parton.









Events

You Belong Here

Children's artwork also took centre stage at the Festival of Remembrance through a “You Belong Here” exhibition featuring self-portraits created by 355 service pupils from schools across North Yorkshire. Representing around one in 10 of the county's service child population, the exhibition celebrated individuality while highlighting the common experiences that connect military children. The artwork was created during visits to schools in the lead up to the Festival of Remembrance. All of the work created will be scanned as digital images and turned into a video that will be shared with all schools just before the Christmas holidays. A huge thank you to all of the schools that welcomed me in and to the students who were polite, courteous and engaged.



Events



I Belong Here - Poetry Project

Children from Carnagill Primary School were given a challenge to create some poetry about the journeys they had all been on as Service Children. A huge thank you to Sarah Bradshaw, Service Children's Advocate at Carnagill for leading on this and to all of the children who took part. The children were extremely brave as they read aloud whilst being filmed for a series of videos on the Service Children's Champion social media channels. If you haven't seen them yet please scan the QR codes below as they really are worth a listen as they highlight just how varied their experiences are!

Rose

Hallie

Archie

Henry

CARNAGILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Odin

Nevaeh

Iyla

Events

Month of the Military Child Assembly

This year to mark the Month of the Military Child I am hoping to organise a huge 'assembly' for Service children from schools across the county at Harrogate Convention Centre on Tuesday 27th April. However... I need your help!

I am looking for schools to contribute various elements of the assembly. Would you school be able to offer any of the following....

- Cheerleading/Gymnastics/Dance
- Music performances
- Readings/poetry/drama

I am open to any suggestions really so if you have an idea of something you feel would make a great addition to the event please don't hesitate to get in touch.

As part of the event we will be asking schools to nominate pupils for a range of awards including:

- Creative Champion
- Sporting Champion
- Musical Champion
- Community Champion
- Caring Champion

A link to the nominations form will be shared in the next edition of the newsletter.

A final plea, if anyone would like to be involved in planning this event with me and forming a working group please can you join me on for a short initial discussion on Tuesday 24th November at 4pm by clicking on the link below.

https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/3887738699887365?p=pknspbvbUvZuzWc86h

WELCOME



Are you a newly arrived military family?

Moving to a new area can be tough. We are here to help you find essential services, meet friends and help you feel at home.

Scan the QR code for more information, to book a Settling in Service appointment and to receive your free Moving in Guide.

We will support you to settle, connect and thrive in your new community.

SCAN ME!

Your North Yorkshire Journey Starts Here

North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre

citizens advice

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

Updates...

Celebrating Forces Families

The aim of the event will be to acknowledge and celebrate the resilience, the amazing projects families have undertaken, triumph over adversity and inspiring career paths taken whilst being part of the whole community. If you know a person or organisation has gone over and above in supporting Armed Forces Families and would like to nominate them for an award you need to do so by **1st December**



Categories include:
INSPIRATIONAL FAMILY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARD: SUPPORTING THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

PUBLIC SERVICE

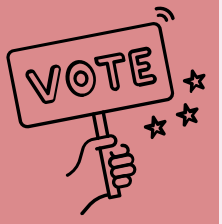
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR – SUPPORTING THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

MILITARY FAMILY CHARITY

ARMED FORCES ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER





Visit celebratingforcesfamilies.co.uk to find out more and to get nominating!

Click here to complete a nomination form for the CFF Awards 2026

A Christmas Cracker

One Night. One Community Concert. One Unforgettable Christmas Celebration!

Featuring local community groups including...

...and more!

Wednesday 16th December 7pm

www.tennantsgardenrooms.com

Events...



A Christmas Cracker!

As the Service Children's Champion, I'm thrilled to invite you all to our upcoming community concert, "A Christmas Cracker", on Wednesday 16th December at 7pm, held at The Garden Rooms, Tennants, Leyburn. The aim of the concert is to bring together the military and rural communities surrounding Catterick Garrison this Christmas for a festive celebration.

This joyful event will feature the wonderful Service Children's Community Choir, alongside an inspiring line-up of local groups including:

- Leyburn Silver Band
- Dales Community Pop Choir
- A concert band provided by BlueBoxt
- Pupils from Carnagill and Le Cateau primary schools
- Richmond School and Sixth Form dance students
- Rhythm and Shoes Dance Academy

It promises to be a heartwarming evening filled with community spirit and we would be extremely honoured to welcome you to join us for event so that we can celebrate the incredible contributions these groups make to the Richmond and Catterick communities. As this is a fundraising event for the groups involved to support their continued work, we kindly ask that attendees purchase tickets to help us raise vital funds.
🎟️ Tickets are available here:
https://www.tennantsgardenrooms.com/whats-on/events/a-christmas-cracker-christmas-music-song-and-celebration/
We truly hope you can join us for what promises to be a magical evening.

Updates...

Become a Service Children's Champion

Service children bring a unique set of strengths, experiences and challenges into our classrooms. Frequent moves, parental deployment, separation from loved ones and adjusting to new schools can all impact a child's educational journey.

The Service Children's Champion Training Programme has been designed to help educational professionals understand these experiences and develop the knowledge, confidence and practical skills needed to provide effective support.

The programme is available to schools, settings and organisations nationwide. Whether you work in a school serving a large military community or support a small number of Service children, the training offers valuable insight into the realities of Service life and the difference that informed, inclusive practice can make.

Flexible Learning to Suit Your Setting
From January, participants will be able to access the programme in two ways:

- **Live online webinars** delivered by experienced practitioners, offering opportunities for discussion, reflection and networking.
- **On-demand training modules**, allowing learners to complete sessions at a time and pace that works for them.

This flexible approach means schools can choose the format that best meets their needs, making professional development more accessible than ever.



Meet 'Hope' the Service Children's Champion Avatar!

Updates...

What's Included?

The programme consists of **nine specialist modules**, covering key aspects of supporting Service children and their families:

- The Impact of Service Life on Children and Young People
- Supporting Service Children in Your School: From Awareness to Action
- Making Service Pupil Premium Work
- Service Children's Advocate Programme
- Supporting Children through Deployment and Change
- Transitions and Mobility: Getting it Right for Service Children
- Amplifying Pupil Voice: Building Identity and Belonging
- Train the Trainer: Delivering Wellbeing Support in Your School
- Supporting Service Children in Early Years Settings

Participants can choose individual modules or complete the full programme. Those who complete all nine modules will be awarded a **Certificate of Completion** and receive an exclusive **Service Children's Advocate badge**, recognising their commitment to championing the needs of Service children and their families.

.

By developing a deeper understanding of Service life, participants will be better equipped to:

- Improve educational outcomes for Service children.
- Make the most of Service Pupil Premium funding.
- Strengthen transition arrangements for mobile pupils.
- Support children through deployment and family separation.
- Foster belonging, wellbeing and positive identity.
- Embed effective whole-school approaches that benefit the entire school community.

While the programme has been developed through North Yorkshire's extensive experience of supporting Service children, it is relevant to schools, academies, trusts, local authorities, early years providers and other professionals across the UK.
Wherever Service children are learning, this programme will help practitioners become informed advocates and confident champions for their needs.

Spring Term Training Programme Live Sessions

During the spring term, we will be delivering all of the modules outlined below as live webinars for those who prefer a structured and interactive learning experience. All sessions will be delivered online. If you, or your nominated delegate, are unable to attend a live session, a pre-recorded version will be available to access at a time that is convenient for you.
The programme consists of nine modules in total. Some sessions will be delivered as lunchtime webinars from 12.00pm to 2.00pm, while others will run for longer to allow sufficient time to explore the content in greater depth and support meaningful discussion. Participants who complete all nine modules will receive a Certificate of Completion and a specially designed Service Children's Advocate badge, recognising their commitment to championing and supporting Service children and their families within their setting or organisation.

Thursday 14th January 12-2pm - £35
The Impact of Service Life on Children and Young People

Thursday 21st January 1-4pm £65
Supporting Service Children in Your School: From Awareness to Action

Thursday 28th January 12-2pm £35
Making Service Pupil Premium Work

Thursday 4th February 10-3pm (includes 30 minute lunch break) £55
Service Children Advocate Programme

Thursday 18th February 12-2pm £35
Supporting Children through Deployment and Change

Thursday 25th February 12-2pm £35
Transitions and Mobility: Getting It Right for Service Children

Thursday 4th March 12-2pm £35
Amplifying Pupil Voice: Building Identity and Belonging

Thursday 11th March 1-4pm £65
Train the Trainer: Delivering Wellbeing Support in Your School

Thursday 18th March 12-2pm £35
Supporting Service Children in Early Years Settings

Clickhere to book

Service Children's Champion

ARMY WELFARE SERVICE

NEW ARMY WELFARE SERVICE SPECIALIST WELFARE REFERRAL FORM



THE ARMY WELFARE SERVICE HAS A NEW REFERRAL PROCESS. FROM 3RD FEBRUARY 2026, PLEASE SUBMIT USING THE NEW REFERRAL FORM.

YOU CAN ACCESS THE FORM USING THE QR CODE BELOW.

Armed Forces Helpline

Safe, Confidential, & Free

Helpline & Whatsapp

0333 091 2527

A helpline for Royal Naval, British Army, and Royal Air Force personnel and their family members. UK or overseas.

For Victims and Survivors of:

- **Domestic abuse**
- **Sexual violence**
- **Stalking**

AURORA
NEW DAWN

TALK TO US

	Helpline	Whatsapp
Monday	9 A M - 3 P M	
Tuesday	9 A M - 3 P M	9 A M - 3 P M
Wednesday	9 A M - 3 P M	5 P M - 8 P M
Thursday	9 A M - 3 P M	5 P M - 8 P M
Friday	9 A M - 3 P M	
Sunday		10 A M - 2 P M

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

ARMED FORCES COVENANT

Army Benevolent Fund

SUPPORT IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE

It is always better to speak to someone than to speak with no-one!

CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Army Welfare Service
Accessible, independent, confidential and professional specialist welfare services to soldiers and their families with any personal or family difficulty.

Open: Monday - Thursday 08:30 - 16:30
Friday 08:30 - 16:00
Tel: ***01904 882053***.

Speak Out
Confidential bullying, harassment and discrimination helpline.

Open: Monday - Friday 0830 - 1700
(except Bank and Public holidays)
Web: Army-SpeakOut@mod.gov.uk
Tel Mil: ***96770 4656*** Tel Civ: ***0306 7704656***

Dispute Resolution & Support Service
The Army Mediation Service (AMS) uses independent mediators to resolve conflict in a confidential setting

Email: Army-Mediation-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk
Tel: ***0306 7707 691***

24-Hour Military Mental Health Helpline
Free, confidential helpline available to all serving military personnel their families and friend that may have concerns.

Open: 24/7 Web: combatstress.org.uk
Email: helpline@combatstress.org.uk
Tel: ***0800 323 4444*** Text: ***07537 173 683***

SSAFA
Confidential personal support and social work services for the military community.

Web: ssafa.org.uk/help-you/forcesline
Tel: ***0800 731 4880*** open 9:00 - 17:30 Mon - Fri

Samaritans
Provides a safe place to talk about anything that's bothering you 24/7.

Web: samaritans.org Email: Jo@samaritans.org
Tel: ***116 123*** open 24/7

Shout
Shout is the UK's first free, confidential, 24/7 text support service. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope.

Text SHOUT to 85258

BEREAVEMENT

Cruse Bereavement Care
Offers advice and support when someone dies.
Open 9:30 - 17:00 Mon - Fri (excluding bank holidays), with extended hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, when open until 20:00.

Web: cruse.org.uk Email: info@cruse.org.uk
Tel: ***0808 808 1677***

ADDICTIONS

GamCare
Free support for anyone affected by gambling harms across UK.

Web: www.gamcare.org.uk/get-support/talk-to-us-now/
Tel: ***0808 8020133***

National Gambling Helpline
Freephone ***0808 8020 133*** 0800 -Midnight
365 days a year.

Alcoholics Anonymous
A support group for men and women who share their experiences and strength with each other to help others recover from alcoholism.

Web: alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk
Email: help@aamail.org Tel: ***0800 9177 650***

RELATIONSHIPS

Relate
Can help you make the most of couple and family relationships, past, present or future. Provides help even if you're not currently in a relationship.

Web: relate.org.uk
Email: Relate.Enquiries@relate.org.uk
Tel: ***02392 827 026***

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Aurora New Dawn
A specialist team for the Army and RN providing advice and support for those experiencing domestic abuse, sexual violence and stalking.

Web: https://www.aurorand.org.uk/services/the-armed-forces/
Email: armedforces@aurorand.org.uk
Tel: ***023 92 479254***

Respect - Men's Advice Line
Advice, support and information for men experiencing domestic violence and abuse.

Web: mensadviceline.org.uk
Email: info@mensadviceline.org.uk
Tel: ***0808 801 0327***

Women's Aid
Advice, support and information on domestic abuse and violence. Open: 24/7

Web: womensaid.org.uk
Email: helpline@womensaid.org.uk
Tel: ***0808 2000 247***

VICTIM SUPPORT

Victim Support
Free and confidential support to help you move past the impact of crime. Open: 24/7 To contact visit:

Web: victimsupport.org.uk
Tel: ***0808 1689 111*** (free)

Victim Witness Support Unit
The Defence Victim Witness Care Unit (VWCU) provides support and guidance for victims and witnesses during their journey through the Service Justice System.

Tel: ***07974 074259*** (8am to 4pm - Mon to Thurs, 8am to 3.30pm - Fri)
Email: people-dscc-vwcugroup@mod.gov.uk

DEBT AND FINANCE MANAGEMENT

Money Helper
Money Helper joins up money and pensions guidance to make it quicker and easier to find the right help. MoneyHelper brings together the support and services of three government-backed financial guidance provider.

Web: www.moneyhelper.org.uk

National Debtline

Open 09:00 - 20:00 Mon - Fri and
09:30 - 13:00 on Sat.
Web: nationaldebtline.org
Tel: ***0808 808 4000***

PERINATAL

Defence Maternal Mental Health Support
Pregnant Service women or those in the first 12 months after birth can self-refer in confidence. DCMH Colchester

Tel: ***01206817057***

EATING DISORDERS

BEAT Eating Disorders
Need Help Now.

Tel: ***0808 801 0677***
Email: help@beateatingdisorders.org.uk

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Calm
Helpline for Men in the UK who are down or who have hit the wall for any reason and need to talk or find information and support. Open: 5pm - Midnight

Web: www.thecalmzone.net
Tel: ***0800 585858*** 5pm - Midnight 365 Days a Year

Sane
Provides expert emotional support and specialist information for you if you are concerned about your own or someone else's mental health.
Open: 04:30 - 22:30 7 days per week.
To access the Sane anonymous support forum via.

Web: sane.org.uk
Tel: ***07984 967 708 / 02038 051 h790***

Papyrus
Dedicated to the prevension of suicide and the promotion of positivemental health / welbeing in young people.

Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org
Tel: ***0800 0684141*** Text: 07860 039

Army LGBTQ+
It offers peer support, mentoring and networking opportunities and resources on inclusive leadership and implicit bias.

Email: www.armylgbt.org
Twitter: @ArmyLGBT

SEXUAL ASSAULT

The Survivors Trust

Web: thesurvivorstrust.org
Email: info@thesurvivorstrust.org
Tel: ***01788 550554 / 08088 010 818***

If you are in distress and do not feel able to keep yourself safe

PLEASE DIAL
999

Version 1.0 MARCH 2025

ARMY

CREATIVE MEDIA DESIGN ADRC | 2073

servicechildrenschampion@northyorks.gov.uk

Contact me at our email address if you have any items for the agenda

SCN

Autumn SCN Meeting

Our Autumn term meeting was held on Wednesday 7th October and we were joined by Lucy Fox who shared updates and information regarding the new Catterick Integrated Care Complex. The joint project between the MOD and NHS will deliver transformative integrated health and care services to the military and civilian communities of Catterick, North Yorkshire, and the wider Richmondshire areas.

The Catterick Integrated Care Centre is a first-of-its-kind MOD-NHS collaboration providing this range of services and will enable shared estate, expertise, and learning to optimise the health and care services for people across the area.
We were also joined by Virginia Arrowsmith, Communities Development Officer, who spoke about the Town Investment Plan for Catterick and Colburn.

A plan that identifies viable, investment-ready projects and initiatives which meet the needs of residents and visitors, and form part of a shared, place-based vision for the future.
North Yorkshire Council want the Plan for Catterick and Colburn to be informed by the voices of the whole community including children, young and people and those with lived experience of service life.

The Spring Term SCN Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th February on TEAMS at 10am.

