

Senedd Cymru  
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Welsh Parliament  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Ymchwiliad i effaith argyfwng Covid-19 ar blant  
a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru

Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on  
children and young people in Wales

COV 89  
Ymateb gan: Rhaglen Cynorthwyo Plant Milwyr  
yn Ysgolion Cymru gan Gymdeithas  
Llywodraeth Leol Cymru

COV 89  
Response from: The WLGA's Supporting Service  
Children in Education Cymru programme

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Regarding your request for information on how the outbreak of COVID-19 is affecting all aspects of life for children and young people, please see the following information regarding children of Armed Forces personnel in Wales.

The SSCE Cymru 'Covid-19 impact on Service children' school consultation (April-May 2020) identified the following additional challenges in supporting Service children in education:

- Service children may experience increased or new worries about their parent's exposure to Coronavirus while they are supporting the efforts to overcome Covid-19
- Separation from parents/carers may be experienced for the first time as regular and reservist Service personnel are mobilised and families establish ways to stay safe while following social distancing guidance
- Some Service children are attending the school Hubs, but the majority are being educated at home while the schools are closed
- Schools face the additional challenges of identifying and supporting Service children with emotional needs while communicating remotely
- Service children that have only recently moved to the school/area have not had the opportunity to settle in and make friends
- The Ministry of Defence (MOD) postings freeze has meant many Service families that were due to leave have stayed and children that were due to join have been delayed indefinitely.

In response to the needs identified by schools in Wales, SSCE Cymru will take the following actions:

- Continue to add information on support and resources, to the SSCE Cymru [Covid-19 support](#) information webpage, which will help schools and Service children
- Work with the MOD and Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP) to ensure they are well informed of the impact Covid-19 has on Service children

- Collaborate with relevant organisations and institutes across the UK to identify needs collectively and respond with a joined up and consistent approach
- Continue to support schools and parents/carers of Service children through virtual means
- Reevaluate the activities planned for the four new *Service Children – Regional School Liaison Officers* (starting in September) to identify ways they can support local authorities and schools during the recovery period
- Run a virtual funding workshop (Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May) and support schools in accessing funding from the Armed Force Covenant Trust [Forces Communities Together programme](#).