

Support for Service families who have a child with additional needs

Hampshire has one of the largest Armed Forces communities in the UK. Armed Forces personnel number over 85,000 (approximately 10% of Hampshire's population), including 1,200 reservists, 20,000 serving military personnel, 4,000 MOD civilians and 60,000 veterans.

Serving personnel are based in several towns in Hampshire. To see a map of all the base camps and please go to: [Hampshire Basecamp Map](#).

Each base has its own welfare support service which arranges social events to reduce isolation and foster a sense of community. They are often a wealth of information on local services so it is worth checking in with them if you are new to the area.

In addition to the welfare units on the base, the RAF, Navy and Army have their own welfare services.

- [RAF Serving Families Support](#)
- [Army Welfare Support](#)
- [Royal Navy Community Support and Advice](#)

The Armed Forces also operate the HIVE from a central location, covering Aldershot, Marchwood, Thorney and surrounding areas but any service personnel can contact this service for help and support and will be referred if necessary. Gosport, Fareham and Portsmouth areas are covered by the Royal Navy Welfare Team. The HIVE information service manages Blogs for service leavers and veterans and includes information about employment opportunities, accommodation (military and civilian options), resettlement courses and housing briefings.

For further information please visit - [MOD Support HIVE](#) or e-mail aldershothive@armymail.mod.uk.

You may have heard of the Armed Forces Covenant:

The armed forces covenant sets out the relationship between the nation, the government and the armed forces. It recognises that the whole nation has a moral obligation to members of the armed forces and their families and it establishes how they should expect to be treated. The Covenant states that the children of service personnel should have the same standard of, and access to, education (including early years services) as any other UK citizen in the area in which they live.

Definition from SEND Code of Practice April 2015

Each town council and Hampshire County Council must have regard for the Armed Forces Covenant and most publish how they will support the Armed Forces on their website:

- [Hart District Council](#)
- [Rushmoor District Council](#)
- [Test Valley Council](#)
- [Winchester Council](#)
- [Gosport Council](#)
- [Havant Council](#)
- [Hampshire County Council](#)

The Code of Practice (COP) also says:

COP 10.55 “All those with statutory responsibilities towards Service children with SEND should ensure that the impact of their policies, administrative processes and patterns of provision do not disadvantage such children because of their Service-related lifestyle.”

This means that the LA should consider the impact on your child of having an enlisted parent when they assess them for services.

[The Children’s Education Advisory Service \(CEAS\)](#) within the Ministry of Defence provides advice and guidance to Service parents, educational establishments and local authorities on educational issues relating to Service children, including issues relating to special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Service Children’s Education (SCE) provides mainstream education for Service children in some overseas locations. As the education, health and social care resources available overseas are different from the UK, MoD services complete an MoD Assessment of Supportability Overseas (MASO) for all Service children with complex needs before an overseas posting is agreed. It is always a good idea to contact CEAS for advice in the first instance but you are still welcome to advice and information from SENDIASS as well.

CEAS has created a comprehensive guide to the UK education system for forces families which you can see [here](#).

Please also note that the COP 10.57 states; When carrying out an assessment of a Service child’s needs or making an Education, Health and Care (EHCP), local authorities must seek advice from CEAS, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Defence.

If your child is receiving SEND support in a school and you have to move, COP 10.56 In respect of Service children, schools and other education providers should:

“Ensure that mechanisms are in place to enable effective and timely receipt and dispatch of all relevant records for Service children with SEND moving between schools in the UK and overseas, to enable effective planning.”

This means that if your child has SEND but no EHCP and you move, their previous school is required to transfer your child’s school records within 15 school days of your child no longer being registered at that school. However, when transfer arrangements are made in advance, it is good practice for the information to be provided in time for the new school to plan ahead for your child’s needs, such as arranging the teaching methods, equipment or special help that is detailed in your child’s existing Individual Learning Plan.

All special needs records and documents for your child should be transferred to the new school, including any detailed background information gathered by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO), copies of Individual Learning Plans and the advice of any specialist teachers or Educational Psychologists working with your child.

It is likely that the new school would want to review your child’s Individual Education Plan as soon as possible, to fully understand your child’s special educational needs and the help they need in order to provide and meet those needs.

You may wish to request a copy of your child’s SEND records if you are moving overseas as your child’s previous school will not be able to transfer records out of England. This will ensure that any new school has the information they need to provide the right support to your child as soon as they arrive.

If your child has an EHCP and you move LA, The legal requirement for the new LA to start making the provision in the EHCP is set out in Regulation 15 of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014.

This will not happen automatically. Under the law, it happens either on the day of the move or within 15 working days of the new LA becoming aware of the move, if later. Therefore it is best for parents or young people to notify the new LA (usually the SEND team within Children’s Services) in advance that they are going to be moving into the area.

The new LA then has six weeks to notify the parent or young person that the EHCP plan has been transferred and to let them know when it is going to review the EHCP plan.

As soon as the EHCP plan has transferred, the new LA has the same legal duties as if they had issued the EHCP plan themselves. The most important duty is to ensure the child or young person receives all of the special educational provisions specified in Section F of his EHCP plan.

If the child or young person's EHCP names a school for which fees must be paid in Section I, "the new authority may not decline to pay the fees or otherwise maintain the child at an independent or non-maintained special school or a boarding school named in an EHC plan unless and until they have amended the EHC plan" (Paragraph 9.159 of the Code).

If it is no longer practicable for the child or young person to attend the school or college named in Section I (perhaps because it is too far away) then the LA must arrange for them to attend another appropriate school until they review and amend the EHCP.

The new LA must review the EHCP within either 12 months from the EHCP being made or last reviewed, or 3 months from the date of the transfer, whichever is the later.

If the new LA wants to carry out a new EHCP needs assessment it can do so.

After a review or re-assessment the new LA could decide to:

- Keep the EHCP the same.
- Make changes to the EHCP. (You will have a chance to make representations about these changes and object to any amendments you disagree with in the same way you would after an annual review.)
- Cease to maintain the EHCP.

Whichever decision the LA makes, if you disagree with it you can appeal to the First-tier Tribunal. You can see how to lodge an appeal [here](#).

Where the move between local authority areas also results in a new clinical commissioning group becoming responsible for the child the old CCG must notify the new CCG on the day of the move or where they were not aware of the move for at least 15 working days prior to that move or within 15 working days of becoming aware. Where it is not practicable for the new CCG to secure the health provision specified in the EHCP the new CCG must within 15 working days of becoming aware of the change of CCG, request the new local authority to make an EHCP needs assessment or review the EHCP. The new local authority must comply with the request.

The NHS has publishes how they will support Forces Families [here](#).

Where a child or young person with an EHCP moves to Northern Ireland, Wales or Scotland, the old authority should send a copy of the EHCP to the new authority or board, although there is no obligation on the new authority or board to continue to maintain it. However the COP 10.57 states, When considering provision for Service children with SEND or disabilities, LAs must use all relevant evidence, including statements made for Service children in Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as Co-ordinated Support Plans made for them in Scotland and the Service Children's Assessment of Need (SCAN) completed for them by SCE

If you are transferred abroad, your child's EHCP will no longer have any effect as they are not recognised overseas. If your posting is for a limited time and you expect to return to England you may ask that the LA allow your child's EHCP to become 'dormant' rather than ceasing it so it can be reviewed and an updated version be put back in place once you return.

SSAFA have created an extensive guide on having a child with additional needs and what support they will get in MOD schools overseas. You can find this here.

When you move you need to fill in this form to inform Forces Accommodation of any adaptations you need to your new home.

These are Special Needs Jungle's Top Tips to moving LA.

If you have to move and you are in the middle of the EHCP process, the new LA can apply the legal test set out in the law (section 36(8) of the Children and Families Act 2014) which states an LA must consider;

- whether the child or young person has or may have special educational needs (SEN); and
- whether they may need special educational provision to be made through an EHCP.

If the answer to both of these questions is yes, they must carry out an EHCP needs assessment.

This means that even if the assessment process has been started in one LA, the new LA still has to apply the legal test themselves. If they agree to assess, they should use any reports already generated by the previous LA. Having said this, all LA's must have regard to the Armed Forces Covenant and should not cause undue delay to the process to not unfairly disadvantage the children of serving personnel.

If you have an appeal registered with the SEND tribunal service, you must inform the tribunal immediately if you move house. The tribunal service will then contact the new local authority to tell them about the appeal.

The new local authority may be substituted as a party to the appeal as if they had made the decision. Your appeal will be against them, unless there are good reasons why they should not take over the appeal. If the case is transferred to the new local authority, there will be a new case management process and a new timetable for supplying evidence. The old local authority will take no further part in the appeal.

All schools in England receive a pupil premium for the children of serving personnel from The Department for Education (DfE) to help schools address the specific challenges children from service families face and as part of the commitment to delivering the armed forces covenant. This is called the Service Pupil Premium or SSP.

State schools, academies and free schools in England, which have children of service families in school years reception to year 11, can receive the SPP funding. It is designed to assist the school in providing the additional support that these children may need and is currently worth £310 per service child who meets the eligibility criteria.

Pupils attract SPP if they meet one of the following criteria:

- one of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces (including pupils with a parent who is on full commitment as part of the full time reserve service)
- they have been registered as a 'service child' on a school census since 2016.
- one of their parents died whilst serving in the armed forces and the pupil receives a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme or the War Pensions Scheme

Children have to be flagged as service children ahead of the autumn school census deadline. Service parents need to make the school aware of their status by talking to the head teacher or school admin staff.

In addition to this there is the DfE's ever 6 service child measure which states that that any pupil in reception to year 11, who has been flagged as a service child since the 2016 autumn school census, will continue to receive the premium.

Ex service personnel should tell the school if they left the armed forces within the last 6 years. Under the DfE's ever measure, schools will continue to receive SPP for up to 6 years for children whose parent(s) left the armed forces, provided the children were recorded as service children in a school census from 2016 onwards (prior to their parent(s) leaving the forces). The ever measure also applies when service parents divorce or separate or when a service parent dies in service.

Eligible schools receive the SPP so that they can offer mainly pastoral support during challenging times and to help mitigate the negative impact on service children of family mobility or parental deployment.

For other ideas on what your child's school could spend the SSP on go to: Service Pupil Premium.

If you have a query about the Service Pupil Premium (SPP) Please direct your query to: People-AFFS-Mailbox@mod.gov.uk

The government have created the Wraparound childcare scheme which funds out of school hours childcare for eligible children.

The Wraparound Childcare (WAC) scheme funds wraparound childcare during term time for eligible Service children aged 4 to 11 years old (up to capped rates).

You can apply for up to 20 hours per week, term time only (39 weeks per year) of wraparound childcare funding for 4- to 11-year-old children attending before and after school clubs in the UK.

Eligibility criteria

At least one partner (or single parent) must be serving as an Armed Forces Regular (including Full Time Reserve Service Full Commitment).

- Dependent children aged 4 to 11 must attend school (including home schooled children) and be living with the Serving person for the majority of the time unless separated due to service commitments (deployment, residential courses), or when on serving on unaccompanied assignments overseas involuntarily with the family in the UK. Adopted children, children of long-term relationships and domestic partner children, where they meet the eligibility criteria, are eligible. Where the child is normally resident elsewhere for example with another natural parent or relative, the Service person will be unable to claim WAC funding. Foster children are not eligible, as WAC eligibility is based on Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) criteria set by HMRC, part of the eligibility criteria for TFC is that the parent has responsibility for the child. Fostered children are 'looked after children'

and the Local Authority (LA) is responsible for them. The way the LA delivers its responsibility is by employing foster carers, but the LA remains responsible for the child.

- The partner of the Service person must be in paid employment, starting or restarting work within the next 31 days (earning the equivalent of 16 hours at national minimum / living wage). Both partners must each have an adjusted net income of £100,000 or less per annum.
- The WAC provider must be Ofsted, or equivalent, registered, including schools and childminders.
- A Tax-Free Childcare (TFC) account must be set up with HRMC for each child that Service Personnel wants to claim the funding for.
- The childcare provider must also be signed up to the TFC scheme.
- The Service parent has either an assignment order to a UK based unit or is serving on an unaccompanied assignment overseas involuntarily with the family residing in the UK.

Service families can check if they are eligible and how to claim WAC funding by visiting the [Discover My Benefits website](#).

Contact your unit HR team or admin office for any queries about claims. If you have questions about the policy contact PEOPLE-AFFS-WAC-FRO-mailbox@mod.gov.uk.

Under The Equality Act 2010, a school must take positive steps to ensure that disabled pupils can fully participate in the education provided by the school, and that they can enjoy the other benefits, facilities and services that the school provides for pupils, including extracurricular activities and after school clubs. You can read more about what this might look like [here](#).

Reasonable adjustments during the before/after school club is down to the company providing this service but access to the club is the school's responsibility. So any company that a school permit to provide clubs must be willing to admit all children and to make reasonable adjustments.

Your child should not be denied access to wrap around childcare due to their SEND needs.

For family support in Hampshire we have the Early Help Hub. They support families with more than one problem. This might be housing, education, behaviour, domestic violence or debts for example. They help by co-ordinating services and getting support in place for the family to prevent any escalation of the problems being faced. They are not social workers and having Early Help Hub support does not mean there are safeguarding concerns with your children, just that your family needs some short term support. You can see a video on the EHH [here](#).

In addition to the Early Help Hub, local councils have a duty to assess a 'child in need' under the age of 18 for any services that they or their family may need.

A 'child in need' is defined as one of the following:

- A child who is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services
- A child whose health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision of services
- A child who is disabled - the Children Act considers a child disabled if the child is blind, deaf, non-verbal, suffering from a mental disorder of any kind, substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity or such other disability as may be prescribed.

The assessment considers all the help that your disabled child needs, the needs of any other children in the family and the help that you may need to care for the disabled child. The assessment will involve gathering information (which will include talking to you, your child and other key people in your child's life); assessing this information and deciding whether any of your child's or family's needs are eligible for support from the local council.

You can request a Children Act assessment by contacting the local council, explaining that your child is disabled and a child in need and you want an assessment of the needs of your child and your family to be carried out. You should describe your child's impairment, and (if you have one), you could provide a copy of any diagnosis of your child's disability. Describe what difficulties you are having and the type of help you would like. The Children's Act allows local authorities to have their own eligibility criteria for who they give services to under the Children's Act. You can see Hampshire County Council's Disabled Children's Team eligibility criteria [here](#). We suggest you write down the ways in which your child meets Hampshire's eligibility criteria prior to the social worker coming to visit you to help you show that your child is eligible for their services.

Alternatively you could ask your GP, health visitor or voluntary organisation to contact them on your behalf. The local council should respond immediately (within one working day), letting you know whether it will carry out the assessment.

You will get a report following the assessment which sets out their findings and whether or not they believe your child is eligible for additional support from them. At the end of the report it will tell you who to contact if you disagree with the outcome.

There are services you and your child can access without a Children's Act assessment. You can apply for [a Gateway Plus Card](#) to enable your child to access specialist activities for children with SEND. To search for activities click [here](#).

The Buddy Scheme is for anybody who is aged 7 – 17 (up to their 18th Birthday) can access the scheme. Many of the young people currently using the scheme are going with their buddy to town, cinema, parks, going bowling or simply going out for a meal. The number of hours that a young person can use under the scheme is capped at 25 hours per month. You can use up to 25 hours in any given month (subject to availability). Hours cannot be accumulated or carried forward to future months. You will need to commit to use the scheme regularly, and may need to pay in advance for sessions booked. The minimum length of a weekday (after school) session is 2 hours and a weekend or school holiday session is 3 hours. You will need to commit to at least fortnightly sessions.

[The community buddy scheme](#) is available to all young people living in Hampshire who have a current Gateway Card and are between 7 and 19 years old. To find a buddy or to find out more about accessing the scheme e-mail Community.buddyscheme@hants.gov.uk or telephone: 03707 793569.

If you are overseas and need support for your family, in an MOD School area you can contact the Statutory Social Work Service (contactable through your child's school or Welfare Office). Overseas in non MOD school areas contact Core Assets, Tel: +44 8081683111 or Email: crt.bfsws@coreassets.com.

Other help available to the families of service personnel:

<p>Little Troopers</p>	<p>Little Troopers at School project objective is to educate schools, primary and secondary, about the unique needs through circumstance of military children. Their aim is to ensure all military children get fair and consistent support within their education setting wherever that may be, for all circumstances and however many times they move schools.</p>
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Service Children in State Schools	<p>Service Children In State Schools is a voluntary affiliated network of state-maintained schools in England that have any number of Service children on roll. SCISS is led by a National Executive Advisory Committee (NEAC) comprising of headteachers; Local Authority officers/advisers; representatives from the three Armed Forces Families Federations and representatives from the Service Children Progression Alliance (SCiP), the DfE and the MOD's Global Education Team.</p>
Forces Additional Needs and Disability Forum	<p>The Forces Additional Needs and Disability Forum (FANDF) is a tri-Service group for Serving personnel, reservists and their families who have a child or adult dependent with an additional need and/or disability. The FANDF is a unique group as it is run by a committee of members whose vision is the ensure that all 'Forces families with additional needs and disabilities receive the support they need'.</p>
Army Families Federation	<p>The Army Families Federation (AFF) is the independent voice of Army families and works hard to improve the quality of life for Army families around the world - on any aspect that is affected by the Army lifestyle.</p>
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION INDUSTRIES	<p>Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) is a national charity supporting the Armed Forces, people with disabilities and people who are unemployed. We improve lives every day by inspiring those we help and supporting them to find work and lead independent lives.</p>
Royal Naval Benevolent Trust	<p>RNBT gives help in cases of need, to serving and former Navel Ratings and Royal Marines other ranks, including reservists. They also support the children and families as well.</p>

<p>The Veterans Outreach Service (based at the Maritime Club, Portsmouth)</p>	<p>A combination of public, private and charity sectors offering one-stop assistance pro bono to Armed Forces veterans, merchant navy in hostilities and their families needing help following military service. This includes legal, housing, financial, employment help and mental health support from psychiatrists, psychologists and counsellors. Agencies include The Royal British Legion (TRBL), SSAFA, Combat Stress and a mix of locally based charities.</p>
<p>Help for Heroes</p>	<p>Help and support for veterans of the Armed Forces or currently serving, their families and loved ones, whatever the illness or injury. Help for Heroes assist with empowerment to regain purpose and have a positive impact on society. Support covers injury, illness, mental health and wellbeing, recovery programme courses, welfare and financial support and career recovery and support. The nearest Recovery Centre is based in Tedworth House, Tidworth.</p>
<p>SORTED!</p>	<p>SORTED! comprises of seven well established charities who are already providing a wide range of employment related services and help for individuals to find and retain work. This service will ensure you get the right information, advice and guidance to support your employment journey.</p>
<p>Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund</p>	<p>The RAF Benevolent Fund is the RAF's leading welfare charity. They support all serving and former members of the RAF as well as their partners and dependent children. They also support reservists, those who completed National Service, widows and widowers and former members of the Royal Observer Corps.</p>

RAF Families Federation	<p>RAF Families Federation supports individuals and their families transitioning from HM Armed Forces with advice and support in all areas, including support to gain financial assistance from relevant organisations - housing advice, advice on welfare, money and debt management, addiction and mental health issues.</p>
Forces Support	<p>A national bereavement and Veteran support charity which ensures parents, widows and children of families bereaved through a military death can access practical support throughout the UK.</p>
Royal British Legion (Local branch in Havant)	<p>This service provides financial, social and emotional care and support to all members of the British Armed Forces, past and present, and their families. The Legion supports service leavers to find employment and can also provide advice and guidance to partners and dependants of serving personnel.</p>
The Soldiers Charity	<p>This offers a lifetime of support to soldiers and former soldiers from the British Army and their immediate families including includes housing, education, training and employment. Support is offered to very young serving families to cope with a sudden bereavement or traumatic loss and providing wide-ranging support to wounded soldiers. The charity also supports older veterans and their widows or widowers when they find themselves lonely or isolated.</p>
The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity	<p>The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity support sailors, marines and their families for life.</p>
Navel Families Federation	<p>This charity supports with schools, housing, work, finances, planning for the future, postings overseas, relationships and health. They offer a confidential service.</p>

Ripple Pond	<p>Ripple Pond supports adult family members of physically or psychologically injured British Armed Forces personnel and veterans by connecting them together to reduce feelings of isolation, rebuild confidence and self-esteem, develop resilience and to work towards a more positive state of mental health.</p>
Veteran's Gateway	<p>The first point of contact for Veterans seeking support, this organisation puts Veterans and families in touch with the organisations best placed to help with the information, advice and support they need - from healthcare and housing to employability, finances, personal relationships and more.</p>
Career Transition Partnership	<p>The Career Transition Partnership are the official provider of resettlement and have supported leavers of the Armed Forces for over 20 years as they transition from the military into civilian life.</p>

Disclaimer: Hampshire SENDIASS has made all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication. It does not constitute legal advice and Hampshire SENDIASS cannot accept any responsibility or any loss or damage suffered as a consequence of any reliance placed on it.

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