

MLG
Education



Supporting Service Families

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MLG (Education)

April 2021 Newsletter. Issue 9

Highland's Armed Forces Community

Armed Forces Community



3 SCOTS

3 SCOTS Welfare Staff and Army Welfare Service Senior Community Development Worker will continue to support all families of those deployed to Afghanistan on Operation TORAL, we will continue our welfare support to all families of service personnel with organised online activity/events. Looking forward to the planning and executing of face to face activity/events under the COVID-19 government guidelines.

News story

New legislation to help ensure fair treatment for armed forces

New legislation to help ensure armed forces personnel, veterans and their families are not disadvantaged by their service when accessing key public services.

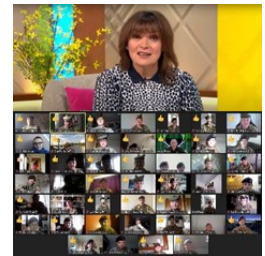
[Click Here](#) for GOV.UK full article

Highlanders Conduct National Teaching Course



Army Cadet Volunteers from the Highlands held a National Instructor Course last month to allow cadets from across the organisation to progress in their cadet training over lockdown. Members of 1st Battalion the Highlanders conducted a Junior Cadet Instructor Course for 45 cadets from across the Army Cadet Force.

The Junior Cadet Instructor Cadre (JCIC) is an integral part of 3-Star training and is designed to teach cadets how to instruct cadets up to 1 Star Training. The course, conducted over three weekends via Zoom, saw the cadets learn how to teach their fellow cadets lessons from the Cadet Syllabus.



Over the three weekends the cadets as well as receiving lessons on instructional techniques

they also received leadership presentations and talks from various high profile members of the organisation, including the Army Cadet's Honorary Colonel Lorraine Kelly who did a welcoming address for the course.

For more information about the 1st Battalion The Highlanders Army Cadet Force [Click Here](#) or search armycadets.com/1sthighlandersac

School Enrolment Let your school know if your child is from a Serving, Reservist or Veteran family. If we know—we have a greater understanding of your child and how best to ensure their time at school is the best it can be. [Click Here](#) for info

poppy
scotland



Poppyscotland
The MacRobert Centre
Strother's Lane
Inverness
IV1 1LR

Hopefully soon we can go from Left (to our own devices) to Right (back where we belong) again!

In the meantime we are still there in our respective home offices from 1000 to 1600 Monday to Friday for any member of the Armed Forces community in difficulty.

For more information:

Tel: [01463 710300](tel:01463710300)

Email: inverness@poppyscotland.org.uk

The Highland
Council
Comhairle na
Gàidhealtachd

getting
it right
for every child

Schools and Families

Notification of Parental Deployment Form

Increased communication and sharing of information at times of Deployment is key to ensure we are Getting it Right for Every Child

Please highlight these forms and make readily available at Reception
Download electronically [here](#).

Or go to the Highland Council Armed Forces website [here](#)

NEW RADIO BROADCAST

MLG, Informed by the voices of Children and Young People:

Co-production, Participation, Inclusive: UNCRC
Listen and find out how MLG are putting this into action.



Highland Council's Armed Forces Website is packed with information for Educators, Practitioners, families & young people. [Click here](#) or visit www.highland.gov.uk search "Armed Forces"

JUST ASK


Is an enquiry line for our Parents, Carers, Children, Young People and those who work with them.

[Click here](#) for the website or call us Tuesday and Thursdays 1-4pm on 0300 303 1365

Our Voices

Children & Young People from Armed Forces Families

Ellie and Katie Answer Transition Questions from Raigy Forces



you won't know if you like them until you try them

What subjects will I do there?
I might not know them or like them?

You will do a variety of subjects in S1 and S2 you do: Maths, English, science, home etc, Technical, Art and Design, Language, PE, RE, PSE, Business, Geography, History, Music

?

?

I am worried I will get lost going to all the different classes. You probably will, I did (Katie). I was in the wrong maths class for a full 20 minutes before we realised, no one shouted they were really good about it and understood that I was new. It really doesn't take that long to figure your way around the school and there are so many people all you have to do is ask and someone will help you, and most importantly you won't ever get in trouble for being lost or in the wrong class the teachers understand it's all new for you.



What if others don't understand what it's like to be from a forces family?

Brilliant question! It is up to you how much you want to talk to them about it but from our experience the people who we have spoken to think it's really cool!! Because Forces children have been going to Millburn for so long most of the teachers understand what it is like for us "Army kids", but I know Scott from RCET is trying to organise a group for us army kids so that will be something that will help support us when our Mums/Dads are away.



Will I get to be in the same class as my Friends?

We gather information from primary schools about friendship groups, and will try to place you in a class with some people you know.

In your S1 class, you will have at least one person you know from your primary school.

Also a great opportunity to make new friends!

A full list of their Q's and A's will be published in a Transition Leaflet.

Look out in the next MLG Newsletter for questions from Wimberley Way Nursery about going to P1.

Introducing “Raigy Forces” Raigmore Primary, Inverness

Meet the Troops

“Thanks to funding from the Armed Forces Education Trust, I get to directly work with armed forces children and their families. Our “Raigy Forces” group consists of around 100 children from Nursery through to P7. Together we explore key issues such as deployment, belonging as well as change and loss. HWB is at the forefront of our group, as well as providing additional literacy and numeracy support”.

Kerry Challinor, Armed Forces Support Teacher



Lockdown Learning

During the recent school closures “Raigy Forces” moved online. Using ideas from the children, virtual classrooms were created to support the emotional wellbeing of our armed forces children and families during this difficult time. The interactive classrooms provided stories, activities and resources to help the children manage a variety of emotions, in a fun and easy to use format. Face to face interaction was still a priority and although not in person our group sessions continued throughout lockdown through weekly GoogleMeets. This gave the children opportunities to engage with their friends, share their thoughts on their lockdown journeys and maintain access to vital support from the school and their peers.

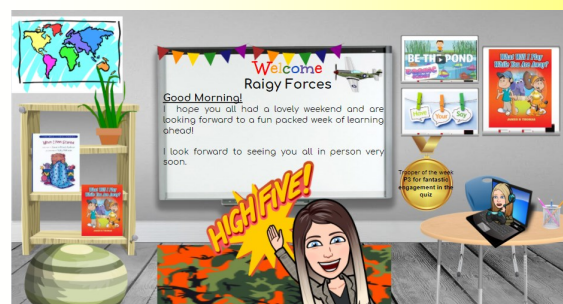


Children’s Voice

It is really important that our armed forces children feel a sense of belonging within the group. Since December, our children have worked on a number of initiatives together to help them take ownership of the group including: co-producing our group name and designing our group logo.

Our weekly sessions encourage the children to share their thoughts, feelings and ideas. They are actively encouraged to lead their learning and are fully involved in the planning and evaluating of their learning through our Raigy Forces Floor Book.

Most importantly, our children work together to understand, support and manage the unique emotions experienced as a result of being part of an armed forces family.



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Getting It Right
for Forces
Families Children
and Young People
in Highland

getting
it right
for every child

News and information From MLG (Education) Partners Supporting Highland's Children & Young People



Your Mind Matters
A NEW MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICE FOR ARMED FORCES YOUNG PEOPLE

Discovery phase


Join the project team in our Discovery phase.
We are looking to work with young people from serving personnel and veteran families, to discover your ideas for a brand-new digital wellbeing platform. Working together with your views and your experiences for your community.

Our vision: an inclusive, accessible and safe new wellbeing service co-produced with and for Armed Forces children and young people, which is open to and connects veteran, serving and reservist families as well as the civilian community.

Enquiries to wellbeing@rct.org.uk

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

Royal Caledonian Education Trust
Scotland's Armed Forces Children's Charity



www.armedforcesmorayandhighland.co.uk

Information, guidance, advice and help for the Armed Forces community in Highland and Moray. We welcome suggestions to improve information please email

dot.ferguson@highland.gov.uk


The Highland Armed Forces and Veterans' Community Partnership met recently and received updates from many partners on the wide range of support and activity which has been ongoing throughout the Covid pandemic. In addition to the military's direct support for a wide range of Covid-related responses (including helping to set up vaccination centres), all the third sector charities have been busy supporting their client base through very difficult times.

The Employment Group continues to flourish and is making key linkages with local employers and support agencies as well as holding virtual events which have been well attended.

NHS is continuing to work with GPs to ensure they full understand the needs of the Armed Forces Community. Next stage will be specific GP training on Young People and Children and Families.

If you want more information about the Partnership, please contact dot.ferguson@highland.gov.uk.

Click here to view MLG's leaflet—providing an overview of how the group supports Highlands Armed Forces Community



**Army Welfare Service
Community Support**

Despite the challenges of lockdown, AWS Community Support have continued to support families of Serving Soldiers and Reservists through a wide range of virtual activities and are now looking forward to a return to face to face work, albeit socially distanced.

The spring/summer programme is already in place with us delivering 111 gardening boxes to families as far away as London as well as supporting the UWO in an Easter Egg Hunt. It was lovely to see all the families again.

Over the next few months we will be delivering deployment support, mindfulness and keep fit, coffee mornings, youth clubs as well as Bingo and family quizzes.

We are also delivering online cookery classes, providing targeted support to families with ASN alongside a group for LGBTQ+ teenagers.

There will also be a summer activities programme and a residential later in the year.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact: Ellie Martin, SCDW on 07941199584 or Helen.martin773@mod.gov.uk.



High Life Highland
looks forward to welcoming
customers back as more services
open up on Monday 26 April

The BounceBack^{2.0} Timeline

- 26th April
 - Indoor Gym
 - Open-Swimming and Swimming Classes
 - Archive Centres
 - Inverness Botanic Gardens
 - Ben Nevis Visitor Centre
 - Libraries (Click and Collect - see local info)
- 27th April
 - Inverness Museum and Art Gallery
- 5th May
 - Highland Folk Museum
- 17th May
 - Indoor Fitness Classes Start

Join now at hlh.scot/join

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FAMILY FEDERATIONS NEWS

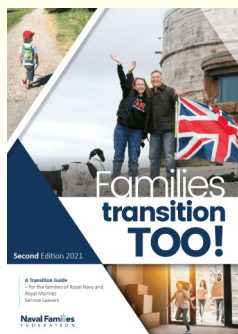
Supporting

Highland's Tri-Service Community

MLG (Education) Partners

Naval Families FEDERATION

Speaking up for Naval Service families



The Naval Families Federation is delighted to introduce the second Edition of *Families transition too! A Transition Guide – for the families of Royal Navy and Royal Marines Service Leavers*.

When we first produced this guide, we wanted to ensure that families of Service Leavers were supported during their Service person's transition out of the RN/RM. The guide was received so well by our audience that we wanted to ensure that you had all of the latest information available. [Click Here](#) to read.

aff army families federation
We are here to help!



Filomena Tuivanualevu
Regional Lead Scotland
07780 093115
scotland@aff.org.uk

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.

ROYAL
AIR FORCE
Families
Federation

The RAF Benevolent Fund launched their research 'Growing Up in The RAF' in February this year—it provides some valuable evidence from children themselves about the impacts of Service life.

You can access the [report](#) on the RAF Benevolent Fund's website, as well as discover other ways in which the charity can support children and young people through their [Airplay](#) programme at stations and Airplay Connect online, as well as their [youth counselling service](#).

You can read and download books aimed at improving children and young people's well being, funded by the RAF Benevolent Fund on the [RAF Families Federation website](#)

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Introducing and putting The Spotlight On ...

Engagement In the Highlands.

Hi, I'm Staff Sergeant Matt Mac Donald and I am the Regional Engagement Officer for the Highland area and I work from Inverness. I have access to a small team and we are able to travel all over the Highland area if required.



We aim to provide your school or youth organisation with some no cost activities that can help our young people work on their social and interactional skills which also can be used along with SQA guidelines, our activities (TRIPLOC) can help with the following skills:

Teamwork, Resilience, Initiative, Problem Solving, Leadership, Organisation and Communication.

By taking part in these activities, the young person can add to their portfolio through, for example, the SQA's People and Society and Investigating skills. This allows Young People to demonstrate that by using straightforward knowledge, they are able to understand a problem, work together as part of a team, show leadership and use different types of communication skills to solve a fun problem or achieve an objective. My team can support the learner in identifying an aim, understanding the resources required to achieve it, working out the risks, putting together a plan and then communicating and adapting it as things change ('cos they always do!), whilst working alongside others, to achieve success. We use the Scottish Attainment Challenge to support delivery into schools.

The Army has a wide range of activities and challenges for young people on offer such as command tasks, Meet the Solider talks right through to residential opportunities provided by other parts of the Army (details for this on request!).

For any further information I can be reached by Email or Phone:

matthew.macdonald753@mod.gov.uk or 07971925781

NOTE: We aim to INFORM to ATTRACT but we do not recruit for the Armed Forces directly.



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Extra Bits Of Interest and help...

- Sharing stories and talking about books is a fun way for families to spend time together at home or online with family members they can't be with, such as a deployed loved one, grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins, or even friends
- We post FREE books and special scrapbooks to children/young people from 0-18 years of age
- Families can request FREE books and scrapbooks via our website [here](#)
- Welfare organisations/units, schools, nurseries, other charities and clubs can use RF as part of their pastoral support by telling their families about us and/or ordering FREE scrapbooks to hand out - order via our website [here](#) (families can then order books themselves)
- **NEW! NEW! We are now supporting online book clubs for the following age groups: Adults, Seniors (12-16 years) and Juniors (8-11 years). If interested in running a group with our support, click [here](#) for more information**



For more information contact Fiona Maxwell, fiona@readingforce.org.uk or Tel 07548 778 930

Getting It Right
for Forces
Families Children
and Young People
in Highland

Highland Council Armed Forces Covenant

Specifically supports the equity and equality of Children and Young People from Armed Forces Families to ensure they suffer no disadvantage.

[Click Here](#) to email MLG lead, for a helpful narrative to insert in your **School Handbook** to

Welcome Armed Forces Families to Highland

To compliment our website [Forces Children's Education](#) we have created social media accounts on LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook and we would love it if you reached out to us, you can find us on any of these platforms simply by searching **Forces Children's Education** or by using the links below.

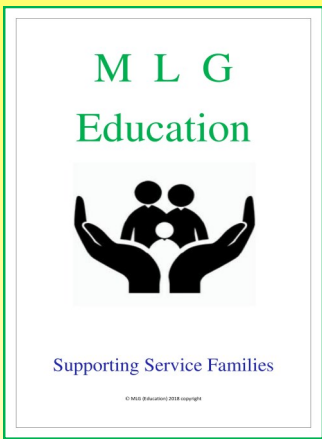
FORCES 
CHILDREN'S
EDUCATION

On LinkedIn, please connect with us: [Forces Children's Education | LinkedIn](#)

On Twitter, follow us and we'll follow you back: [Forces Children's Education \(@ForcesChildren\) / Twitter](#)

On Facebook, just pop in and like our page: [Forces Children's Education | Facebook](#)

We would welcome any suggestion on the content and what you would like to see on these pages going forward and would be delighted if you shared the details with your contacts.

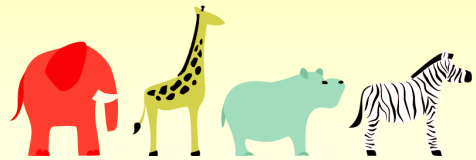


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A great place for sharing Information and Resources



“This programme will award grants of up to £10,000 for community projects that reduce isolation and promote integration; supporting post-Covid recovery in local Armed Forces communities affected by isolation.” Click on image for information.



[bumps to bairns](#)

Early help for Highland children



“Adding value through facilitating collaboration.”

Supporting remote learning and teaching across the Northern Alliance. Click the logo and find out more.



Highland Council’s Psychological Service have made a selection of resources and training materials available on the [Highland Council Psychological Service Blog \(external link\)](#).



Follow us:

Twitter @HLHYouthWork

Instagram @HLHYouthWork

Or

[Email Nigel](#), Youth Work Manager



Do you have a question about the development or wellbeing of a child or young person in

Call us:

Tuesdays or Thursdays, 1–4pm

A health or educational professional will call you back within a few days

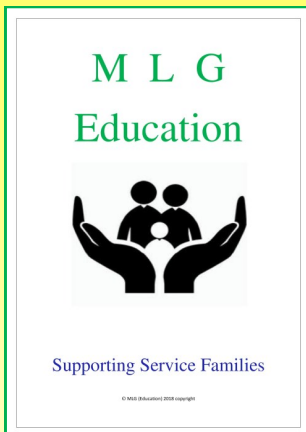
[Click Here](#) to view poster



Youth Highland/Voluntary Youth Network (VYN) do regular News Drops, like this one, of updated National guidance, regional support, helpful resources, events, training & funding opportunities which are archived on our Youth Highland website. Click on this link to see all previous & upcoming News Drops <http://www.youthhighland.org.uk/> and click here to see the latest news [Go to this Sway](#)



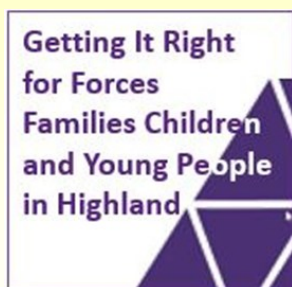
Chip+ Parent Pack, a great resource for parents and carers in Highland whose child may have an additional support need. [Click Here](#)



MLG (Education) Newsletter

Share your Voice

Information and Resources



**Getting It Right for Forces
Children In Highland**
[Click Here](#) for website

**Get Involved.
Have Your Say.
Make a Difference.**

**Your News
Your Views
Your MLG**



Email: louise.kinnear2@highland.gov.uk

If you require an alternative format to suit individual needs please get in touch