

Two Army Cadet Volunteers have been recognised for their commitment to the young people of the Highlands with a combined service of 48 years between them.

Lt Callum Campbell (59) and SMI Lorraine Woolley (58), from were recently presented with clasps to the Cadet Forces Medal, by the

the Lord Lieutenant of Ross & Cromarty Mrs Joanie Whiteford, which recognise their further service to the UK Cadet Forces, at a Ross Company Training Weekend held in Dingwall in December.

The Cadet Forces Medal is awarded to all officers and uniformed Adult Instructors in recognition of long service of proved capacity

in the Cadet Forces. The medal is awarded after 12 years service to the Cadet Forces, with an additional clasp for every 6 years of further service.

To read the full story <u>click here.</u>

For more information about 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Highlanders <u>click here</u>



Top; Lt Campbell receiving the 1<sup>st</sup> Clasp to the medal, for 18yrs service, Bottom: SMI Woolley receiving her 3<sup>rd</sup> Clasp, for 30yrs service.



working with them to access the right information at the right time to support wellbeing for all. <u>Click Here</u> to visit









## **Spread the word**

Help us to make

#### **Children's Mental Health Week 2023**

the biggest and best yet!

By spreading the word about the week, you'll help us to build understanding of children's mental health – and the different ways we can support young people.

Our social media guide is full of ideas of the different ways you can post about the week on social media. Not social media savvy, or looking for other ways to spread the word? Write to your local school using our template letter, or download and print some of our promotional posters, flyers and more.

However you get involved, you can help us get closer to a future where every child has easy access to mental health support.

## <u>Click Here</u> for FREE resources, toolkits, posters, flyers and more





WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS THE UK.

## **Children & Young People**

#### Included, Involved, Participating

MLG are working with Children and Young People from Armed Forces families to co-produce....

## "A Highland Welcome"

for other pupils, at all stages, who are moving into the area.

We want to welcome Children and Young People from Armed Forces families moving into Highland.

## Who better to welcome them, than the pupils themselves!

We are currently working with Primary and Secondary pupils and later this term we will also work with children from the Early Years.

#### These are some of the things they talking about so far .....

Buddies TRANSITION DAYS TRACHERS Celebrations Clubs Making friends Special places and animals of the Highlands FREE TIME AND ... the weather!

We look forward to working with more pupils this term and sharing with you

A Highland Welcome!



# SPOT LIGHT ON Martin McNally Welfare Manager Veterans UK

**Veterans UK** is part of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) who support service personnel, veterans and their families get appropriate support from the government, their local authority, independent bodies, and the charity sector.

Within Veterans UK, support is provided by three departments these are the <u>Veteran Welfare Service</u> (<u>VWS</u>), <u>Defence Transition Service (DTS</u>) and <u>Integrated Personal Commission for Veterans (IPC4V</u>) who all provide expert advice and guidance in their respective areas of responsibility.

My name is Martin McNally and I am from a military background after completing 24 years in the Army. The experience and skills gained over these years has allowed me to be able to engage with likeminded veterans and serving personnel and offer them support, guidance and advice. Giving this advice allows me to give something back to the veteran and serving community that I was once part of (serving) and am now (veteran), which is hugely rewarding for me personally.

What do I do - I am employed as the Welfare Manager (Highland) for the Veterans Welfare Service. My area of responsibility covers from Perth northwards covering Aberdeenshire and the Highlands & Islands. In my role I provide support to serving personnel, veterans and their dependants who have an enduring welfare need and/or require assistance or guidance on what wider support is available to them from Veterans UK and other supporting agencies and organisations.

**How I can help** - Veterans Welfare Service offer specific advice, support, and guidance to veterans and serving personnel when applying for <u>Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS)</u> and <u>War Pension Scheme (WPS)</u>. I can also assist in providing information and assistance in applying for benefits that are available through the Department of Working Pensions (DWP) and I can make referrals to social services and other voluntary or charity organisations to request support from the service they provide. Our support can be provided thorough either telephone contact or I can arrange a home visit if required.

**Additional Support** - I also provide support with the transition from service to civilian life and assistance and support to bereaved families. I can offer support if there are changes in disablement and any life event that requires welfare assistance.

**How to contact us** – Veterans UK has 4 welfare centres, providing advice and support across the UK. If you need any help, advice, or assistance you should call or email the welfare centre that is closest to you. In Scotland our office is in Glasgow.

Veterans UK - Glasgow (Scotland, NE England, NI and ROI) Email: <u>Veterans-UK-VWS-Scot-NI@mod.gov.uk</u>

Veterans UK Freephone (UK only):0808 1914 2 18 Email: <u>Veterans-UK@mod.gov.uk</u>







### **MLG (Education)**



SUPPORTING HIGHLANDS ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

#### Statutory Armed Forces Covenant Duty WITHIN EDUCATION—WHAT DO WE NEED TO CONSIDER?



#### "What support is available for organisations to help them apply the new law?

The MOD has produced <u>Statutory Guidance</u> to help affected organisations to understand and comply with the Covenant Duty. This explains the Armed Forces Covenant, and includes examples of where disadvantage can arise, of **good practice**, **and other useful information**.

Warwickshire County Council has also developed an elearning training module designed to raise awareness of the Armed Forces Covenant generally, which can be found <u>here</u>."

#### "What will the new Armed Forces Covenant Duty do?

The new Covenant Duty will raise awareness amongst organisations that provide services in healthcare, **education**, and housing of how Service life can impact on the Armed Forces community, and how disadvantages can arise due to Service when members of that community seek to access key local services.

The Duty will require organisations delivering local services to pay due regard to the Covenant principles when exercising functions in the areas of housing, healthcare, and **education**.

"Due regard" means that organisations in scope of the Duty will need to consciously consider the unique obligations and sacrifices made by the Armed Forces; that it is desirable to remove disadvantages faced by the Armed Forces community; and that special provision may be justified in some circumstances."

#### "How will this affect the Armed Forces community?

Service life affects serving personnel, veterans, and their families in many ways. Whether it's through frequent house moves, separation from loved ones and support networks or unfamiliarity with civilian life, for example, they can find themselves on the back foot when accessing public goods and services. The Covenant Duty will raise awareness amongst providers of public services, like **schools** and hospitals, about how Service life can impact the Armed Forces community. In turn, this will lead to more informed policymaking as these organisations will better understand the uniqueness of Service and how this can cause disadvantage accessing these services compared to civilians.

This won't mean that the Armed Forces community will be placed at the front of the queue. But it will mean their circumstances will receive a fairer assessment when their cases are considered. In this way we can help to ensure that the Armed Forces community are treated fairly now and in the future.

Key functions covered by the new Duty include issues such as: the allocation of social housing; healthcare waiting list policies; and **schools' admissions "** 



Supporting Service Families



## **News and information** FROM SPECIALIST SERVICE PROVIDERS MLG (Education) Partners



**The Army Welfare Service (AWS)** is the Army's professional welfare provider; it delivers a comprehensive and confidential welfare service responsive to the needs of individuals, families and the Chain of Command in order to maximise the operational effectiveness of Service Personnel.

AWS delivers its services via Personal Support and Community Support:

**Personal Support** staff provide accessible, independent, confidential and professional specialist welfare services to Service Personnel and their families; and in doing so strengthen and enhance the resilience and resourcefulness of Service personnel and their families.

Specialist advice is also provided to the Chain of Command and outside agencies and is delivered by Army Welfare Workers and Personnel Recovery Unit Social Workers.

Personal Support services help with matters such as Domestic Abuse, Child & Adult Safeguarding, Bereavement, Relationship Difficulties, Stress & Anxiety Management, Emotional Well-being, and Signposting.

For all Personal Support enquiries and referrals please contact the Intake and Assessment Team (the AWS welfare single point of contact) at: RC-AWS-IAT-0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk or 01904 882053 (civ) / 94777 3053 (mil).

**Community Support** secures or directly provides learning and personal development opportunities for military personnel and their families wherever they are living. Non-formal education opportunities are provided within Community, Youth and Play Centres and Projects to children, young people and their families throughout the year and across the UK and overseas.

Community Support delivers additional activities during school holidays, including Easter and Summer programmes and offsite residential experiences. Community Support staff adopt best practices, are compliant with government legislation and guidelines, and in doing so promote a stronger sense of community and well-being.

> Senior Community Development Worker – Susan Reid Office Number: 0300 154 5087 / Email: susan.reid137@mod.gov.uk

Welfare Support Officer – Tracie McDermott Office Number: 0300 162 3075



#### Personal Support& Social Work Service RAF Lossiemouth

Need to talk? Contact our confidential, independent service on: Call 03000 111 723 Available 24 hours a day,365 days a year or Email <u>psswsraf@ssafa.org.uk</u>

SSAFA offer a **CONFIDENTIAL** welfare service to **ALL** military personnel on the Station irrespective of rank, gender, or marital status. We are here to support spouses, partners, children, and extended families.

Contact Us Debra.clarke@ssafa.org.uk 01343 817076 (95161 7076

#### Royal Navy Family & People Support (RN FPS)

Business Support Worker – Emma Oliver Office Number: 0300 170 1846

have staff located within Helensburgh & Arbroath. The team includes Case Workers who provide specialist welfare services to personnel and their families with long term support if required; community and information staff who provide a range of activities and events, and a plethora of information especially around relocation and deployment.

If you require our support:

For specialist welfare services contact the RN FPS Portal on **0800 145 6088** 

For community support, email: navypeoplepsrnfpsscot@mod.gov.uk

For information and engagement with others, visit and join https:// forum.royalnavy.mod.uk or email: rnrm-wio@royalnavymail,mod,uk





Supporting Service Families

1.

Month

of the

Child



## **News and information**

## From MLG (Education) Partners

Supporting Highland's Children & Young People

Forces Children's Education website is continually being updated with authoritative information and resources for families, educators, and support professionals.



.

#### APRIL 2023 – Month of the Military Child

This is an international celebration to honour the children and young people from the Armed Forces community (Regular, Reserve and Veteran/ex Service)

The Month of the Military Child highlights the challenges children face and barriers they overcome when a loved one is serving or has FCE will release more details about the Month of the Military Child closer to the date, with resources and ideas to support the celebrations

Military you are planning.

#### Armed Forces Covenant Statutory Duty: Health, Education and Housing

ADES has developed an advice document to complement the MOD Armed Forces Covenant Legislation Guidance UK document. This has been sent to all 32 local authorities, and is available on the ADES Forces Children's Education website.

It provides a Scotland-specific context and perspective that identifies and aligns with the structures, processes and policies already rooted in Scottish education that address the needs of children and young people of armed forces families. It includes: An explanation of the duty for local authorities



Areas of concern

- Challenges, and barriers that might be faced by armed forces families and their children. Suggestions and resource links for further information.

A presentation package template created by ADES, NEO, and Education Scotland is also available to support authorities and practitioners in developing awareness and understanding.

> Contact Carolyn MacLeod, National Education Officer, ADES at info@forceschildrenseducation.org.uk www.forceschildrenseducation.org.uk

> > they represent.

We are delighted to share our 2022 Impact Report, titled 'Reinforce | Stronger Together'.

SCOTLAND

FORCES

CHILDREN

It's proved a challenging time for most charities across the United Kingdom. That's why our theme focuses on what we have done to ensure we are ready to respond to whatever challenges children and young people face, both now and in the future.

Our projects, services and campaigns continue to directly or indirectly support over 12,500 children and young people in Scotland, from education and learning to mental health and wellbeing, making important transitions and much more.

Better still, we have enhanced the ways in which we work directly with children and young people to ensure their lived experiences is at the heart of everything we do, from recruitment to development of projects, services and campaigns.

Click here to read the report.

For more information and to get involved in our work contact nina.collins@forceschildrenscotland.org.uk.

The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) is a high**life** democratically elected body of over 120 young people who represent young people in their local areas or national organisations. SYP discusses a variety of national issues, from education reform to climate action, but always focuses on topics brought to them by the young people

In Highland, there are six members of SYP (MSYPs), two in each of the three constituencies. These MSYPs do a range of national and local work, from campaigning for new laws to consulting young people in their community. Recently, SYP successfully campaigned for the Scottish Government to introduce free bus travel for all under-22 in 2022. And locally, the Highland MSYPs are working on improving mental health support in schools, something which hopefully also helps armed forces' children when they move in to, and sometimes between, schools by reducing the potential for anxiety and stress. @OfficialSYP

you didn't know it is worth mentioning that the UK Youth Parliament has direct Armed Forces Children's reps - perhaps worth checking out.

My name is Hamish Nott, one of the 6 Highland MSYPs and also Chair of the Highland Youth Parliament (which has been included in past newsletters) both of which are supported by High Life Highland youth team. Contact me at hamish.nott.msyp@sypmail.org.uk



## **FAMILY FEDERATIONS NEWS**

## Supporting Highland's Tri-Service Community MLG (Education) Partners



Another posting equals another new school. Service children can attend upwards of five different schools up



to the age of eighteen, and children also have to cope with leaving friends behind and making new ones with each move.

Education is a devolved issue and Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales all have slightly different education systems, delivered in slightly different ways. There is more information about the differences on the AFF website at aff.org.uk

Our Education & Childcare Specialist Anna Hutchinson can be contacted on: educationsupport@aff.org.uk

Our Regional Lead for Scotland Amanda Yorke can be contacted on scotland@aff.org.uk | 07780 093115 The <u>RAF Families Federation (RAFFF)</u> provides an independent voice for all Regular and Reserve RAF personnel



and families. We work to improve quality of life around the world – at work or at home, whether personnel are single or have partners and children.

To support Service personnel and families relocating to different areas of the UK, we have recently added a section on <u>Education in the Devolved Administrations</u> to the RAFFF website which includes information on the Scottish education system.

If you have a question, concern or need support with an education or childcare related matter, please visit the RAFFF website to get in touch.

#### M L G Education



Supporting Service Families

## **News and information**

## From MLG (Education) Partners

Supporting Highland's Children & Young People



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

emma.tayler@highland.gov.uk

The Highland Armed Forces and Veterans Community Covenant Partnership (HAFVCCP) welcomed Cllr Sarah Rawlings last year to the position of Chair of the Partnership in her role as the Highland Council's Armed Forces and Veterans champion. Unfortunately due to a period of ill health Cllr Rawlings has been unable to progress this role. In December the Council appointed Councillor Leslie-Anne Niven on an interim basis until Cllr Rawlings returns. The Partnership very much welcomes this appointment and looks forward to the Partnership leadership Cllr Niven will bring.

A report on the work of the partnership over the last year was presented to Highland Council on 8th December 2022. To read the full report <u>CLICK HERE</u> **Combat Stress** is delighted and very excited to be working from a new Highlands hub which is based at the **Army Welfare Centre in Inverness**. Our Highlands team comprises of a Senior Mental Health Nurse Rachel Speed and a Substance Misuse Practitioner Gill



Getting It Righ for Forces Families Childr

Chalmers who aim to work effectively and collaboratively with local agencies within the Highlands, both statutory and third sector. We are also in the process of recruiting a Psychological Therapist who will hopefully be joining the team soon.

Combat Stress is the UK's leading charity for veterans' mental health. We provide care and treatment to former servicemen and women helping them deal with issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety and depression. We provide evidence-based, and trauma informed phased treatments for veterans with complex trauma-related mental health needs as a consequence of their military service.

Professional referrals can be made directly to the Scotland Service or selfreferrals can be made via our **24-hour Helpline which is a free phone number**, **0800 138 1619**, and is available to all military veterans and their families for emotional support and guidance.

There are also veteran specific educational resources for common mental health problems on our website <u>www.combatstress.org.uk</u>.

FREE books, scrapbooks and reading journals for all Armed Forces families, including veterans

www.readingforce.org.uk



#### **READING FORCE — SCHOOLS/WELFARE ORGANISATIONS/CHARITIES**

- Primary schools can order **FREE** scrapbooks to give out— we also provide a letter for parents/carers to go with the scrapbooks explaining how they can order **FREE** books for their children
- Secondary schools can order FREE reading journals to give out we also provide a letter to go with the Journals explaining how tweens and teens can order their **FREE** books

#### READING FORCE — FAMILIES: CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN

- Families can go directly to our website to request FREE books and scrapbooks/books and reading journals one for each child in the family
- Grandparents can also request books and scrapbooks/books and reading journals for their grandchildren

Sharing stories and chatting about books is a fun thing to do, helping families to stay close and connected, not only at home together but also if a parent is away for any reason or families are separated by distance geographically

FAMILIES can order books and scrapbooks here (even if they have had them before!)

SCHOOLS/WELFARE ORGANISATIONS/CHARITIES can order scrapbooks, reading journals and parent letters to give out <u>here</u> (even if they have had them before!)

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





## **HiVE Information**

Getting It Righ for Forces

Families Child

#### Supporting the Service Community and their Families



#### M L G Education



Supporting Service Families

## MLG (Education) Newsletter A great place for sharing Information, Support and Resources



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 <u>Click Here</u> to view poster



#### Befence Children Services

The DCS Vision is that we Educate the Child – Support the Family – Defend the Nation

<u>Click Here</u> to visit and find out more information about the Education Advisory Team (UK)





Highland Council's Psychological Service have made a selection of resources and training materials available on the <u>Highland Council</u> <u>Psychological Service Blog (external link)</u>.







**Click Here for further information** 



bumps to bairns Early help for Highland children



MLG (Education) Newsletter Share your Voice Get Involved



Getting It Right for Forces Children In Highland <u>Click Here for website</u>

Get Involved. Have Your Say. Make a Difference.



Email: louise.kinnear2@highland.gov.uk

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