

IMPACT REPORT

2025-2026



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

In 2025–2026, Forces Children Scotland has...

SUPPORTED 437 BABIES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ARMED FORCES FAMILIES

with in-person participation work

ENGAGED 478 PRACTITIONERS

in our hybrid learning and development programme

ENABLED 820 YOUNG PEOPLE TO FIND SUPPORT

through our on-demand digital services

DISTRIBUTED £37,500 TO 30 YOUNG PEOPLE

at university or college, enabling them to focus on their studies and lead more balanced lives

The **Forces Children's Rights Charter** has been accessed **410 times** as an educational and supportive tool for babies, children and young people from Armed Forces families.

298 young people and the adults who support them used the **Deployment Rollercoaster** to navigate the emotional journey of a loved one's deployment.

145 children and young people contributed their views to **Camouflaged in the education system**, a new report on Forces children's experiences at Scottish schools.

Adult volunteers gave **140 hours** to the **Ruby Boots** project, enabling peer support for children and young people with families transitioning to veteran status.

Two in three of our team and our Board of Trustees have direct Armed Forces connections.

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Forces Children Scotland (Operating name of the Royal Caledonian Education Trust) is a Scottish Charity, SC038722.

Patron: His Majesty King Charles III

www.forceschildrenscotland.org.uk

FOREWORD

We envisage a world where babies, children and young people from Regular, Reservist and Veteran families are listened to, their rights are upheld, and they are empowered to realise their potential and thrive.

This reporting year, April 2025 to March 2026, has seen us redefine our goals and launch influential new projects, with children and young people's voices front and centre.

In comparison to last year's report, there has been a significant increase in our activities and output. But what matters most to the fantastic Forces Children Scotland team is working alongside each and every individual, and seeing the personal impact this has on the lives of babies, children and young people. For Isla, who took part in many of this year's projects:

"Being involved with Forces Children Scotland has made a really positive difference in my life. It has given me a sense of belonging, helped me build confidence, and given me opportunities to meet people and try new things, I feel supported and valued as a part of Forces Children Scotland and being involved has helped me grow as a person."

Our school and community-based activities have provided direct support in areas with a high Forces population. Morven, a young person from a submariner family, told us:

"I have enjoyed the project and have been able to meet new people, make new friends and get support for when dad is away."

Through our on-demand digital resources, we have also enabled children and young people to access supportive tools from anywhere in the world.

This report presents the first year of impact under our new strategy, [HEAR. INVOLVE. SUPPORT.](#) and reflects our revised outcomes framework. You will see the continuation of projects that make a difference for the young people and the launch of major influencing initiatives, including the **Forces Children's Rights Charter** and the **Camouflaged in the education system** report.



Cadence, who comes from an Army family and helped create the Forces Children's Rights Charter, said it best:

"Our message is clear: hear us, involve us, and support us. This charter isn't just about making life better for Forces kids today. It's about ensuring that those who come after us have their rights respected too. Let's turn these promises into actions that make a real difference."

We are proud to be part of the Armed Forces community in the UK and the children's sector in Scotland. Co-operating, co-ordinating and collaborating with like-minded organisations is very important to us. To do this well, we want to be intentional about the value we add, and equally what we can learn from others.

What sets us apart is how we work with young people. Our approach ensures their right to participate in decision-making is realised. This year, we published our [participation principles](#), setting out how we protect this right throughout every child or young person's experience of working with us.

Recognising and valuing each individual voice helps us have a direct and lasting impact. This approach has been validated by many of our partners, who are encouraging us to share our methods and learning beyond our borders.

We are so grateful to our dedicated supporters for walking alongside us and investing in our impact. And to the incredible young people of Forces Children Scotland: thank you for engaging with us and helping chart a brighter future for all Forces children.



STEVEN SWEENEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WHAT WE DO

Our mission: Provide support and opportunities to enable babies, children and young people from Regular, Reservist and Veteran families to realise their potential and thrive.

HEAR. INVOLVE. SUPPORT. is our promise to the children and young people involved with our work and the name of our 2025–2028 strategy, launched this August.

We built this strategy with input from the children, young people and families working with us, alongside our partners, Board of Trustees, and staff team. It takes its name from Cadence’s call for the Forces Children’s Rights Charter: “**hear us, involve us, and support us.**”

We’ve taken this call to heart, designing our three-year strategy with four priorities responding to what matters most to those we support. In this report, you’ll see the first year of this strategy in action, and the difference it is already making.

CO-OPERATING, CO-ORDINATING AND COLLABORATING

Co-operating cross-sector, co-ordinating across networks, collaborating with purpose



EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Participation, resources and wellbeing supports in early years, primary, secondary and community settings



"HEAR US, INVOLVE US, SUPPORT US"

Creating spaces for listening, sharing power and upholding rights through learning, development and policy



A HEALTHY, HAPPY AND ENERGISED FORCES CHILDREN SCOTLAND

A well-run organisation with our people established as our greatest asset



MEASURING OUR IMPACT

In partnership with **The SCiP Alliance Impact Centre**, we have redefined what success looks like for us, guided by a simple principle: working with, not for, children and young people.

These six outcomes are the result of that work and the foundation for the pages that follow.



EARLY YEARS

More supported and informed parents and families in the early years

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Improved physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing
- Increased skills development and education support
- More empowered to participate in decision making that affects their lives

TEACHERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS

Increased awareness and improved understanding of Forces life in professional practice

SYSTEMS

Communities, systems and societies better supporting babies, children and young people from Forces families

MORE SUPPORTED AND INFORMED PARENTS AND FAMILIES IN THE EARLY YEARS

Inspired by what we heard from families and partners in the children's sector, we have made a conscious effort to increase our support for the early years.

As one practitioner who undertook training with us reflected: **“it’s important to leave a place for very young children that don’t have a voice yet.”**

FIRST STEPS

Deployment, mobility, and other experiences affect the youngest members of Armed Forces families profoundly, but their age makes it harder for them to express themselves.

In partnership with **Early Years Scotland**, we’ve been working to ensure babies and young children from Armed Forces families get the right support from practitioners. We’re also helping parents feel equipped to navigate their children’s needs.

To support this aim, we developed a brand new, CPD-accredited module, rooted in both professional expertise and real-life experience:

19 SESSIONS

with nursery staff and parents shaped the module’s content

55 PARENTS AND PRACTITIONERS

contributed directly to its development

We drew on what we heard, combined with theoretical insights like the emotional cycle of deployment, to shape the module. Then we took it on the road:

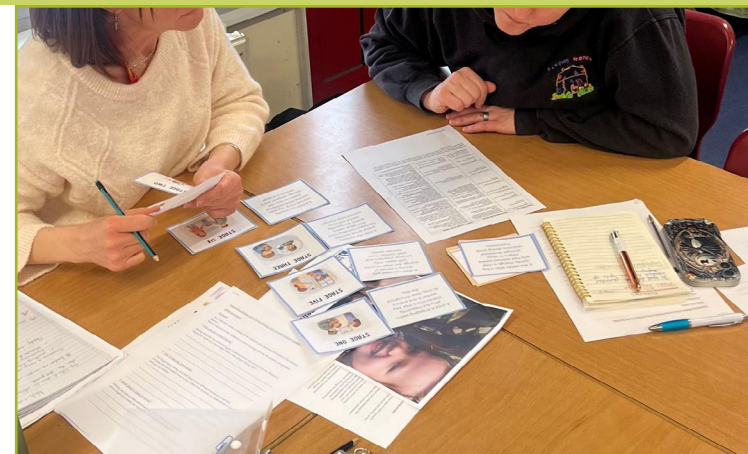
21 EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONERS

completed this training

This included **nine nursery team members** in Edinburgh at Colinton Primary School, and **12 practitioners** across Helensburgh, at **Stepping Stones Nursery**, **St Joseph’s Family Learning Centre**, and **Garelochhead Nursery**.

These practitioners reported increased knowledge and confidence following their completion of the module:

“It really raised the concept that Forces families are multi-faceted and experience a range of different aspects and barriers.”



These evidence-based resources are freely available to parents and practitioners who need them as part of the [First Steps Hub](#). We also offered **two webinars** addressing the needs of the youngest Forces children, delivered in partnership with Dr. Marg Rogers of the **Child and Family Resilience Programs** and the grassroots organisation, **Dandelion Military Families**.

87 PRACTITIONERS

took part in these webinars

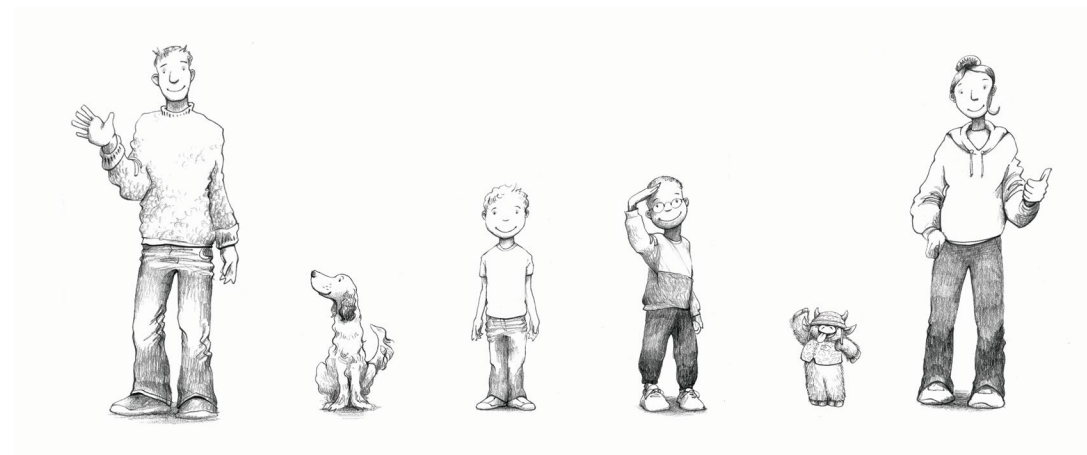
“It particularly made me think about the experience of babies during deployment — this is something we have not really focused on previously.”

“I really appreciated how you brought in international best practice and highlighted that the impact extends beyond Scotland. I learned a lot.”

“Genuinely every bit of it was helpful for me as a practitioner.”

Participants also appreciated the first-hand experience that our Learning and Development Worker brought to the topic as both a former educator and an Armed Forces parent and spouse.

This work has been complemented by the development of a picture book for young children navigating the transition to civilian life. [Max’s Big Move](#) was co-written with young people from Forces families and launched in May 2026, becoming a key fixture of First Steps.



MAX’S BIG MOVE IS ILLUSTRATED BY CATHERINE LINDOW.

IMPROVED PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The wellbeing of babies, children and young people is an ongoing focus for us. This year, we have made strides by offering direct support to children and young people and inviting them to co-design and deliver support for their peers.

THE RUBY BOOTS PROJECT

Ruby Boots has grown as a lifeline for young people in Edinburgh and Fife whose families are transitioning to civilian status.

The engine of the project is children and young people, leading peer support sessions for others who are going through similar experiences. The Project Coordinator comes from a veteran family, bringing lived experience and understanding to these sessions.

The result is a trusting, supportive environment for those involved:



80% OF PRIMARY-AGED PUPILS

reported improved wellbeing, measured by the Stirling Children's Wellbeing Scale

“It made me feel more confident in talking about what is going on.”

“I learnt that other people go through the same things.”

“This is a safe space.”

Children and young people play an active role in the development of the project, co-producing activities, resources and school-wide assemblies to educate their civilian peers. **On the next page, you'll read more about their achievements!** All told, Ruby Boots delivered:

52 PEER SUPPORT SESSIONS

46 WELLBEING SESSIONS

across six schools and online

16 CO-PRODUCTION SESSIONS

Seven adult volunteers contributed 140 volunteering hours, helping us reach even more children and young people.

YOUNG PEOPLE MAKING
WELLBEING BOXES,
TALKING MATS IN ACTION

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Through our grants programme for university and college students, we have distributed:

£37,500 TO 30 YOUNG PEOPLE

By easing their financial pressures, these grants have helped young people from Armed Forces families lead healthy, balanced lives while pursuing their education.

“It's greatly benefitted me as it helps me pay for my food shops for the month, so I can eat healthy and nutritious meals.”

“It has helped my mood to be more available to engage with my friends and family without feeling too overwhelmed by the stresses of life.”

“The financial stress relieved through your charity has been immense, allowing more time to spend on studying as opposed to working.”

FURTHER PROJECTS

The **Lighthouse** project delivered mental health services at the **Queen Victoria School** for Armed Forces children in Dunblane, including **61 drop-in sessions** and **130 one-on-one sessions**.

Your Mind Matters has offered bespoke support to children and young people from Royal Navy and Marine families in Helensburgh. This in-person work led to **24 positive wellbeing outcomes**. Through the online [Your Mind Matters Hub](#), **114 young people** have utilised on-demand resources, including a Wellbeing Journal, now available digitally and in hard copy.

Talking Mats, an accessible tool for people with communication difficulties, was embraced by the Ruby Boots project and employed in one-one-sessions.



INCREASED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION SUPPORT

The Forces Children's Rights Charter contains a clear message about school: **"My education needs to be about more than my academic achievements."**

We have created opportunities for children and young people to gain lifelong, practical skills as leaders and contributors to our projects.

THE DEPLOYMENT ROLLERCOASTER

The [Deployment Rollercoaster](#) is a digital tool that offers reassurance and coping strategies for every stage of deployment. This year, it was accessed **298 times** by young people and the professionals who support them.

Educators have asked us repeatedly for **"a resource to help regulate emotions throughout deployment,"** specifically for younger children. As one child told us: **"Activities for me and my teachers about deployment would make me feel safe."**

To meet this need, we have been developing a Deployment Rollercoaster for primary-aged children. Offering creative, hands-on activities, our participation team has engaged:

51 CHILDREN
across 25 sessions

These children, representing all three branches of the Armed Forces, have explored their own experiences while helping co-produce an effective support tool.



FURTHER PROJECTS

Future Transactions culminated this year, with three groups of young people co-developing a [Financial Readiness Hub](#) for their peers. Their work has a permanent home in our digital support offer, including a budget planning tool and advice for moving away from home.

263 young people completed a financial education programme with **Money Ready**, learning about financial independence, budgeting, and more.

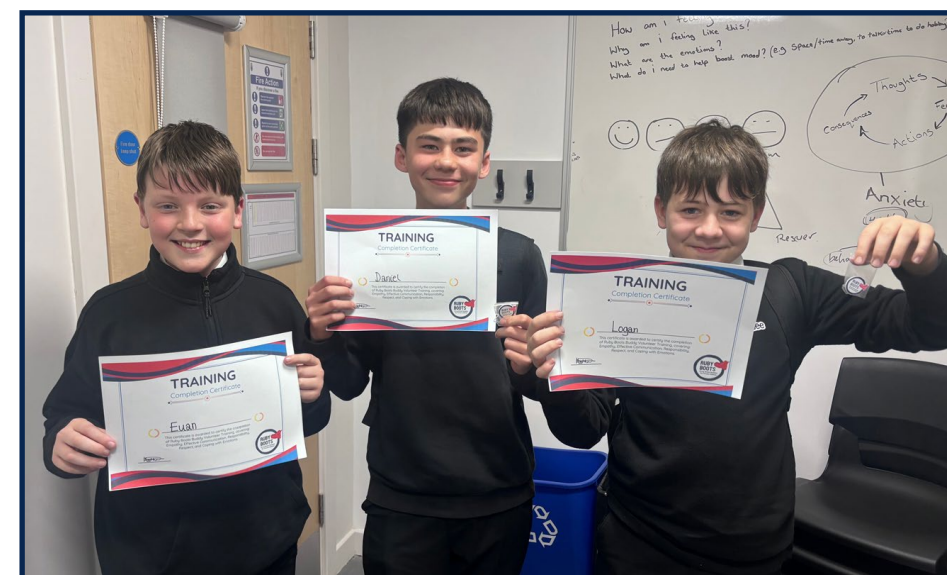
Finding Your Place in Scotland: In partnership with **Young Scot**, we are developing an online package of peer-led information and entitlements for young people from Armed Forces families who move to and around Scotland. So far, three discovery sessions have taken place, with **25 young people** involved.

YOUNG RUBY BOOTS VOLUNTEERS

With its peer support model, the Ruby Boots project offers a unique opportunity for young people to gain skills and experience.

11 children and young people completed training to serve as volunteer buddies for the programme. For one of our young buddies, this opportunity

"helps me go out of my comfort zone and experience new things."



THREE VOLUNTEER BUDDIES AT MADRAS COLLEGE

The buddy system is just one way that young people have gained skills through Ruby Boots. In sessions at Madras College and Firrhill High School, **15 children and young people** shaped a multi-faceted visual representation of the transition to civilian life.

Their ideas and experiences generated four composite stories, and we enlisted a talented young artist, **Kemu Kedrayate**, to bring these stories to life:

"I started drawing in P6. I'm going to college to study animation, and I've enjoyed doing a lot of creative projects working with Forces Children Scotland when I'm studying art. I was really happy to help!"



'The Journey to Civvy Street' is essential to how we tell the story of Ruby Boots, and Kemu's illustrations live on as the creative motif for the project.

On the next page, you'll see this visual journey.



When Dad was deployed for months at a time, Mum gave up her job to keep us going through the moves and separations. She was always there — every school run, every sports day. After Dad left the Army, things changed. Mum went back to work, and I'm proud she's doing what she loves again. But sometimes she's not at the school gates, and I have to share her time with her job. Life feels different, but I know it's her turn now.



I was excited that Mum was leaving the RAF, but it took a long time. After one long deployment, she came home — but soon started “weekending” between Lossiemouth and England for work. Every Sunday night, I dreaded her leaving again, afraid she wouldn't come back. When she finally left the forces, we were all under one roof again. However, I started to struggle in school. I realised that my identity was built in my military life and now I don't feel like I belong anymore. There is a lot of talk about teenagers finding themselves and their identity, but mine has been taken away.



They say we're home now.

Some of us feel okay, some of us are still learning. This new life looks different for each of us, and we're finding our way with the help we need. And with support from [the Ruby Boots project](#), we don't have to do it alone.



Kemu. K



By 12, I'd lived in six houses — and loved it. Moving meant new schools, friends, and adventures. When Dad left the Army, we moved just down the road instead of across the country. At first, I thought it would be great, but I missed the patch, where you could knock on any door and someone would welcome you with cake. I missed the opportunity to have fresh starts and experience new things. I felt trapped and overwhelmed, like I had itchy feet.



When Dad left the Navy, I was happy — no more deployments, no more goodbyes. We moved into our own house, and he started work as a mechanic. But a year later, he got into an accident. Suddenly, I was helping him in ways I never expected, as his carer. People say I'm “mature for my age”, but for me, it's just life. It felt strange at first... but now I know what it's like to have dinner together every night.



MORE EMPOWERED TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISION MAKING THAT AFFECTS THEIR LIVES

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** (UNCRC) enshrines children's rights to have their voices taken seriously. The meaningful participation of children and young people drives everything we do, including youth-led initiatives in schools across Scotland.

FORCES CHILDREN'S RIGHTS CHARTER

This year also saw the launch of the [Forces Children's Rights Charter](#), co-produced with young people to champion their needs in all areas of life:

"It was mainly about identifying what the core issues we feel as a Forces child, and then coming up with a charter of the rights that we feel everybody should pay attention to follow." —Lizzie

These conversations produced ten key provisions, rooted in the principles of the UNCRC. **On the next page, you'll see the ten principles of the Forces Children's Rights Charter.**

The Charter went live at the Rights Roundtable in April 2025, led by young people themselves.

45 PEOPLE ATTENDED

including local and national policy shapers and decision-makers

95.5% OF PARTICIPANTS

reported an enhanced understanding of Forces children's rights

"Listen to what young people's thoughts and views are rather than asking them what we want to hear." —Participant reflection

The event mattered just as much for the young people who set the agenda. They left feeling valued, respected, and heard, as Sophia told us:

"I have gained confidence and the ability to speak in front of people that I don't know."

The roundtable event was a bright start for the Forces Children's Rights Charter, which has since been accessed **410 times** as an educational and supportive tool.

THE CHARTER FORUM GROUP
AT THE RIGHTS ROUND TABLE



YOUTH-LED ACTIVITIES

By offering school-based sessions in communities with a high Armed Forces population—across Moray, Fife, Edinburgh, and Argyll and Bute—our participation colleagues have reached:

236 YOUNG PEOPLE

attending youth-led workshops

96 YOUNG PEOPLE

regularly contributing to forums

109 SESSIONS IN TOTAL

These activities have empowered young people with a greater understanding of their rights and provided opportunities to co-produce projects supporting other Forces children.

For Alfie, who comes from a Royal Naval family:

"I'm quite proud to be making a difference in people's lives, and glad I get to meet all these people who have the same issues."

Their ideas have also sparked initiatives raising awareness of Forces life, such as school notice boards at **Garelochhead**, **St. Joseph's R.C.**, and **Colinton** primary schools. Students at **Firhill High School** have also been collaborating with a professional animator to produce an animation about their experiences of Forces life.

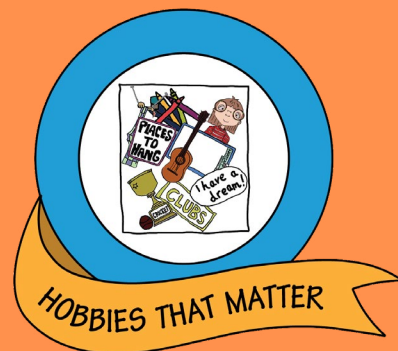
Remembrance emerged as a theme in these sessions, with young people telling us they don't always feel their school

community respects its present-day significance.

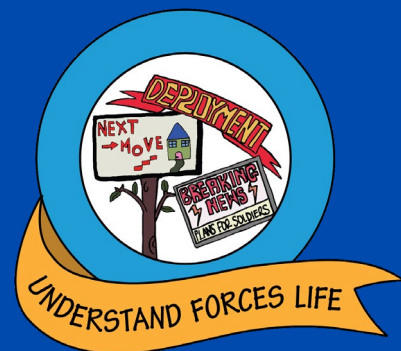
Working with three different school-based groups, we supported respectful, inclusive Remembrance assemblies and other activities. We then shared the resources that emerged from this work, which have been accessed **60 times**.



I can enjoy hobbies
and spend time
with the people who
matter to me



Everyone understands
how life in the Forces
affects me



I am proud to be a
Forces child, and that
should be supported



I have a voice, and it
is taken seriously



Adults do what's best
for me and protect
my rights



I have the best
family life I can



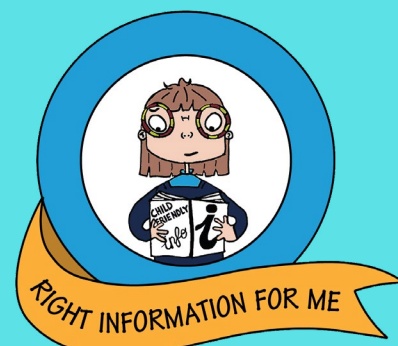
I am as healthy as I
can be



My education helps
me now and in the
future



I get the right
information when I
need it



I am safe where I live
and play



FORCES CHILDREN'S RIGHTS CHARTER

INCREASED AWARENESS AND IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF FORCES LIFE IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

We've reached further across sectors through partnership, putting the lived experience of children and young people from Armed Forces families at the centre, and giving professionals the knowledge and confidence to support them.

Here's what our hybrid learning and development programme achieved over the past year:

478 PRACTITIONERS ENGAGED

323 PROFESSIONALS
attended 17 online webinars

155 PROFESSIONALS
took part in four in-person sessions

"Superb mix of theory/research and applied learning"

"Very informative and based on knowledge and experience"

Our programme of webinars has allowed us to connect with practitioners across the UK and abroad. These sessions foster learning and discussion among a wide range of participants, representing education, health, the third sector, academia, and the Armed Forces community.

Meanwhile, our in-person offer has provided opportunities for deeper engagement.

44 PROFESSIONALS
joined our workshops at the Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance

"Knowing these resources exist will allow me to better support the next Forces child we encounter."

82 TRAINEE TEACHERS
joined our inter-agency working session at Queen Margaret University

"The bank of resources that you have available to educators to use are so helpful."

We also trained mental health and counselling coordinators in schools across Scotland, helping them understand Forces life so that young people can get the most out of their support time.



SCiP ALLIANCE CONFERENCE 2025

While all our learning and development work is informed by the direct experiences of young people, inviting them to speak for themselves is a top priority for us. At the SCiP Alliance Conference in Glasgow, we facilitated an opportunity for children and young people from Armed Forces families to present their experiences and views.

OVER 100 DELEGATES
addressed by children and young people

The **SCiP Alliance** is a network of those invested in improving the lives of children from Armed Forces families. The annual conference brings together practitioners, researchers, and decision-makers over this shared goal.

Leading a conference-wide event, children and young people aged 9-18 introduced themselves and spoke to their experiences of Forces life. Those involved with Ruby Boots discussed the benefits of peer support, presenting with posters and a question-and-answer format they had prepared.

For Eddie, an Army veteran whose daughter, Indie, is involved with the Ruby Boots project:

"Going to that conference and speaking in front of those people made me super proud."

Following the panel, a smaller group of young people also led a workshop introducing the Forces Children's Rights Charter and sparking dialogue about children's rights. All throughout, the delegates offered their full attention and respect, leaving with a deeper understanding of Forces children's lives:

"Thank you so much for the huge amount you contributed to our conference." —Director, SCiP Alliance

**"I can genuinely say that this was the most meaningful and authentic experience of young people's engagement in a conference."
—Senior Education Officer, Ministry of Defence**

COMMUNITIES, SYSTEMS AND SOCIETIES BETTER SUPPORTING BABIES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FROM FORCES FAMILIES

While providing direct support and empowering professionals is essential to our mission, we are also working towards systemic change for babies, children and young people, with their voices and rights leading the way.

CAMOUFLAGED IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

This year, we were commissioned by **The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland (CYPCS)** to produce a report exploring the experiences of children and young people from Armed Forces families in Scottish schools.

145 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE from ages 8-17 contributed to these findings

Our team, and other partners working with Forces children, delivered sessions to identify their views. Half of the contributors had not previously engaged with our work, representing a wide range of Forces children across Scotland.

After the report was drafted, **15 young people** took part in a two-day residential to review its themes and recommendations, ensuring their views were authentically represented.

The findings show that while many teachers and schools are aware of the needs of Forces pupils, children and young people are not always receiving the support they need. Together with CYPCS, we have called for understanding, consistency and support that follows young people, rather than support that resets every time they move.

For Josh, contributing to this report was a valuable experience because:

"I can put so much of my experience growing up and to helping future generations of Forces families... The way I was educated could be different to how future generations are educated because I'd said something, and I think that is pretty cool."

**TWO RESIDENTIALS, EXPLORING
THE EDUCATION REPORT
AND THE RIGHTS CHARTER**



FORCES CHILDREN'S RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The children and young people involved in the creation of the Forces Children's Rights Charter recognised its potential as a tool for change. As Cadence explains:

"This is more than a document; it's a representation of our ideas, stories, and vision for the future. It's a message that Forces kids deserve fairness, recognition, and support."

The co-production of the Charter and its launch were featured as a case study in the **Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights) State of Children's Rights in Scotland 2026 report**.

Since the roundtable event, we have published posters and practical resources supporting the Charter, shaped by a summer residential involving **14 young people** contributing ideas on how to convey its message to different ages and audiences.

The Forces Children's Rights Charter gives us a framework for our influencing work. Knowing what change mattered most to young people has shaped how we respond to government consultations, making sure their voices reach decision-makers.

In September 2025, the government announced plans to improve military family housing. As part of the Defence Housing Strategy renewal, we made sure young people's voices were represented, drawing on evidence from our rights report and the Charter, along with real examples and photos. Safe housing is a fundamental right for Forces children, but one that's often overlooked.

The Charter insists that young people be able to say: **"My house is a place where I can thrive."**

In November 2025, we put out a call for anyone supportive of this cause to formally pledge their commitment for Forces Children's rights. This is a growing movement, and throughout the year, we received individual pledges and support from **Muirtown Primary School, Reading Force, and NeuroDiverse Community CIC**.

We also shared the Charter with the **Royal British Legion** policy team, who reflected:

"There is a huge interest in rights and voice in our work. I've reinforced that the Charter can be used UK-wide."



This growing movement shows what's possible when we work together to put children's rights at the heart of decision-making.

Learn how you can [become a Forces Children's Rights Defender](#) here.

SUPPORTING THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

We value every opportunity we have to engage with, and contribute to, the wider Armed Forces community.

First and foremost, we are honoured to have received a **Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Silver Award** this year, as **one of 19 organisations** across the lowlands of Scotland to be recognised with this award by the **Lowland Reserve Forces’ and Cadets’ Association**.

Aligning our values with the Armed Forces Covenant is incredibly important to us. **Two in three** of our team and our Board of Trustees have direct Armed Forces connections, and the work we do for children and young people has benefitted greatly from their knowledge.

Throughout this year, we have had many occasions to take part in events and milestones for the wider Armed Forces community, including:

- During **Month of the Military Child**, we offered a new collection of school-based resources to foster and celebrate pride young people’s pride in their Forces identity.
- We joined **Lossie Fest** at RAF Lossiemouth, offering a stall with our life-sized Forces Life board game and speaking with RAF children and families. It was also an incredible privilege to see the Red Arrows on display.
- Ruby Boots celebrated Armed Forces Day by bringing a group of children to the **BRAVEHOUND** Armed Forces Day Dog Show. The group was happy to meet Cocoa, assistance dog to Archie Douglas (who is an Army Veteran and the father Heather Douglas, the Project Coordinator).
- We attended the **British Army Expo 2025** at the Redford Cavalry Barracks, meeting with serving personnel and witnessing the Army’s capabilities.
- We had the privilege of remembering the fallen and paying our respects to all who serve at the **Remembrance Sunday Ceremony** in Edinburgh.

Being part of this community and these collective experiences has meant a great deal to us.

We are very thankful to the members of the Armed Forces community who chose to support our mission, including two runners representing us at the Edinburgh Marathon Festival in May 2025.

Wesley Bradley, a retired 3 Rifles Colour Serjeant and a Forces father himself, completed the marathon and raised almost £800 for the children and young people we support:

“It was hard, but worth it... I worked in the Family Office myself, so I know what people are going through. The support Forces Children Scotland offers to military families is phenomenal.”



In August 2025, we were represented by Malcolm Noble, our former Chair and dedicated Ambassador, at the Dundee Kiltwalk. Malcolm, whose father served, was deeply passionate about our work with babies, children and young people and served on our Board from 2008-2022.

Malcolm passed away this year; we extend our [heartfelt condolences](#) to his family and friends, and his passion for the Armed Forces community continues to inspire us.

RUBY BOOTS AT ARMED FORCES DAY, RED ARROWS AT LOSSIE FEST, REMEMBRANCE IN EDINBURGH (PHOTO: LEGION SCOTLAND)





EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME
SILVER AWARD
Proudly supporting those who serve.



PRIDE IN VETERANS
STANDARD
FIGHTING WITH **PRIDE**

THANKING OUR SUPPORTERS

At a time when global uncertainty is putting real pressures on Armed Forces families, we are grateful to every funder, partner and supporter who stands behind us.

Your generosity and ideas make our work possible, and we hope this report has shown what this means to babies, children and young people from Armed Forces families. We're especially grateful to our strategic partners, Greenwich Hospital and the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, whose commitment inspires us to reach further and increase our impact across Scotland and beyond.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



GREENWICH HOSPITAL
SUPPORTING THE ROYAL NAVY SINCE 1694

Thank you for providing the core funding that fuels our support for Royal Navy and Royal Marine families.



Thank you for investing in our impact across a range of projects.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Thank you for resourcing the activities that helped us make an impact.

- Albatross Arts CIC
- Army Benevolent Fund
- Army Central Fund
- Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland
- Early Years Scotland

- Forces in Mind Trust
- Money Ready
- Scottish Government (Scottish Veterans Fund)
- Starcatchers
- The MacRobert Trust
- Veterans' Foundation
- Young Scot

FORCES CHILDREN'S RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Thank you for demonstrating your commitment to the Forces Children's Rights Charter.

- Angus Council
- Inverclyde Council
- Moray Council
- Renfrewshire Council
- Scottish Borders Council



- Muirtown Primary School
- NeuroDiverse Community CIC
- RCA Trust
- Reading Force
- Starcatchers
- Stepping Stones

MISSION PARTNERS

Thank you for collaborating with and inspiring us.

- Association of Directors of Education in Scotland (ADES)
- Army Families Federation
- Children in Scotland
- Cobseo - The Confederation of Service Charities
- Dandelion Project (Moray)
- Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association
- MacKillop Seasons
- Military Liaison Group (Education) (Highland)
- Ministry of Defence
- Naval Families Federation
- Poppyscotland
- RAF Families Federation

- Royal British Legion
- Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity
- Service Children's Progression (SCiP) Alliance
- Service Pupil Advisor Service (Argyll and Bute)
- Scottish Armed Forces Education Support Group
- Scottish Veterans Commissioner
- Scottish Veterans Wellbeing Alliance
- Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
- SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity
- Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)
- Troopr
- Veterans Scotland
- Voluntary Health Scotland
- Youth Scotland

Thank you for taking time to learn about our projects and activities supporting babies, children and young people in 2025–2026.