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Association of Directors of Education in Scotland

ADES National Transitions Officer

UPDATE #2 (1st April 2020)

Armed Forces Children and Young People and their Families

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you and your family are staying healthy and well.

I want to bring the following items to your attention in this update.

1. Update on 'Key Workers Childcare'
2. Information from MOD DCYP regarding military assignments (mobility), affecting transitions of families and their children and schools
3. Website links to MOD Family Federations for Royal Navy /Marines, British Army and Royal Air Force – resources for families & information
4. NTO - Request to gather examples of engagement, resources and support.
5. Royal Caledonian Education Trust (RCET) Crisis Intervention Project

This is the information that is available currently (1st April 2020). Updates will be provided weekly, more often as required.

Please get in contact if you have any comments or queries.

Best wishes,

Carolyn

Carolyn MacLeod MBE

National Transitions Officer

for Children and Young People of Armed Forces families in Scottish Schools, ADES

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1. Update on 'key workers childcare'

Who are the key worker staff that the MOD are expecting on duty just now?

"As you may know we are placed in school hubs – and several of our Forces parents have declared that they are key workers.

As the hubs are to be used as a last resort and we should still be adhering to minimal travel and social distancing, we want to provide the childcare for those children who absolutely require it.

The last piece of communication about MoD key workers and their children that we received, was from DCYP via Carolyn (NTO) on Monday. This was extremely useful; however, we would really appreciate some further guidance around the Forces personnel in our schools who are expected to be at work. As I'm not sure we feel comfortable questioning these parents when they tell us they are Key workers due to their role in the Armed Forces."

Information about **Army Personnel** in Scotland: (30th March 2020)

- a. Commanding Officers (COs) are identifying those personnel who are crucial to the Defence outputs in the weeks ahead.
- b. Wherever possible, push will be for children to be kept at home.
- c. Not all military personnel are key workers, in the COVID 19 sense.
- d. As defence responds to requests for help, so additional personnel may become key workers over time.
- e. Defence key workers should have a signed letter (by the CO), which those running the childcare hub can ask to see.

"I'm really grateful for your patience and support."

Lt Colonel Hugo Clark, Commander Edinburgh Garrison

Royal Navy/Royal Marine Personnel update: (31st March 2020)

ALL Military personnel are now on a higher readiness Notice to Move (less than 2 days) in order to support Govt/NHS for C-19 contingencies. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/military-stands-up-covid-support-force>

The RN still has ships and submarines deployed on critical National tasking, but it looks as if all other spare capacity is going into supporting the above. For example, a sailor on a submarine which is deployed for 3-4 months will have no contact with his family whatsoever and no option to return home, to support family childcare.

Additional information, links and resources will be included on ADES Forces Children's Education website www.forcechildrenseducation.scot

RAF Personnel update (1st April 2020)

RAF Lossiemouth is continuing to deliver 24/7 support to UK Defence tasking through Quick Reaction Alert cover and Maritime Patrol activities together with mobilising and deploying RAF personnel to support the national response to COVID19.

- As such, there will be RAF personnel who require access to emergency childcare provision in the local area when they have no other alternative.

RAF Lossiemouth is committed to minimizing the numbers of children requiring emergency childcare in the region:

- All RAF personnel who believe they require this support should contact their Chain of Command in the first instance for further direction and guidance on how to apply.
- RAF Lossiemouth personnel are NOT to apply directly to Moray Council as it may be possible to adjust work arrangements to enable childcare at home.

Sarah Riley-Evans Sarah.Riley-Evans483@mod.gov.uk

National Transitions Officer (NTO): Colleagues should consult your relevant local authority officer for further advice if the definitions being provided by the MoD/Armed Forces appear to conflict with, or contradict, any guidelines being issued locally. If any such instances arise, it would be important for you to inform me so that this can be used to further improve communication. nationaltransitionsofficerades@gmail.com

2. Information from MOD DCYP regarding military assignments (mobility), affecting transitions of families and their children and schools

Update from MOD Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP) (Friday 27th March 2020)

Ed Harris, Senior Education Officer has provided the following statement:

*"I am writing to let you know that I have been made aware that **military assignments will be temporarily frozen**, except for those essential to operational capability and/or Defence's COVID-19 response. (for those new to the military world, an assignment normally means personnel moving location as part of their unit, or as individuals – this is typically to another LA area or can be out of the UK entirely). This assignment freeze takes effect immediately and initially will apply until 1 Jul 20, with a review no later than 30 Apr 20, to judge if an extension is required. If no such extension is required, then a graduated return to routine assignments will commence from 1 Jul 2020.*

Obviously, this will mean that some military families, who were in receipt of assignment orders that took effect during this time, may not be leaving or arriving into local authority areas as originally planned. I wanted to inform you of this, as this could impact on school place planning for your authorities. I am also concerned to ensure that children who are no longer leaving their current schools can be guaranteed that they can remain in their current school place.

I would be incredibly grateful if you could highlight this development to your school admissions and SEND/ASN/ALN teams please. Wider distribution using your available channels would be appreciated."

NTO: This will impact any transitions plans for children and families with arrangements to day farewell to your school community. It will also impact on those armed forces families who were planning to arrive, within the next three months (or longer). Military 'assignments' can also be referred to as 'postings' (British Army).

This information will be of interest to colleagues responsible for school placement policy arrangements.

3. Website links to MOD Family Federations for Royal Navy/Marines, British Army and Royal Air Force – resources for families & information

Additional information is available to armed forces families (Royal Navy & Royal Marines, British Army and Royal Air Force) on the **Family Federation websites**.

These websites include a copy of the letter written to families by Lieutenant General James Swift OBE, Chief of Defence People. ([The full letter](#))

Use these links to access information specific to each service and important to their families:

Naval Families Federation <https://nff.org.uk/>

Army Families Federation <https://aff.org.uk/advice/family-life/covid-19/>

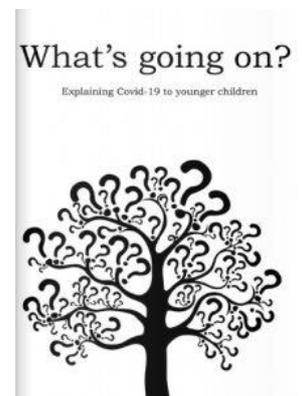
Royal Air Force Families Federation <https://www.raf-ff.org.uk/>

NTO: Of interest, on the RAF website is a short book, written for children to help them understand what is going on around COVID-19.

<https://www.raf-ff.org.uk/news/free-online-book-covid-19-to-younger-children/>

“It is a free online book for younger children who might be feeling worried and anxious with what is going on in the world.”

Author, Clare Shaw has said: “*With so many children feeling worried and anxious right now with what is going on in the world, I decided to write a short free book to help them to understand and hopefully alleviate their fears.*”



4. National Transitions Officer (NTO)

- Request to gather examples of engagement, resources and support

I recognise that you will have lots of information being sent in your direction. Our lives now are in 'on-line overdrive', where there are some excellent examples of learning resources for families.

I would like to highlight work that is being done in support of armed forces children, their family, and their peers within school communities.

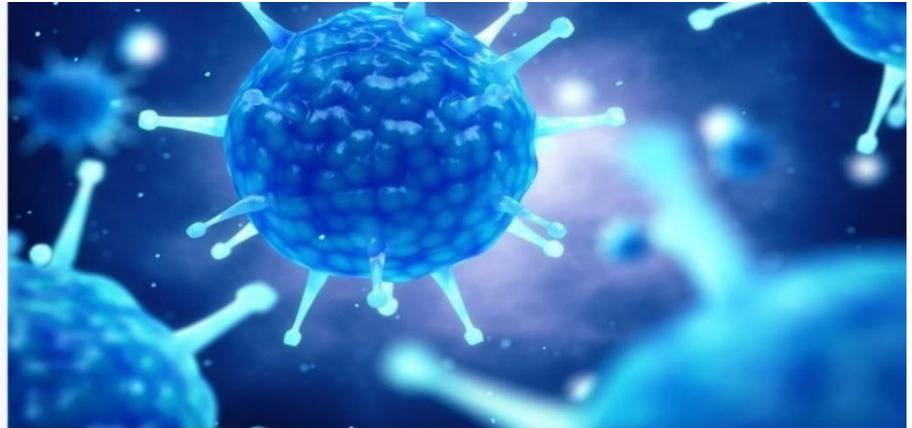
Please send me a note about any engagement and resources that you find interesting. It would be wonderful to promote developments across Scotland, with information included on the **ADES Forces Children's Education** website www.forceschildreducation.scot

Send to: nationaltransitionsofficerades@gmail.com

5. Royal Caledonian Education Trust (RCET) Crisis Intervention Project www.rcet.org.uk



Supporting Armed Forces Families during the Coronavirus Pandemic



Crisis Intervention Fund:

This Fund will be open to any family you believe has been made vulnerable, or more vulnerable as a result of COVID-19. We will be providing a targeted approach for those in need of support to buy food, emergency utilities top-ups and children's clothing.

These are exceptional times and we will do everything we can to keep Armed Forces families supported during this crisis.

Please consider sharing the following message with your friends & family on Social Media:

Facebook: RCET – Scotland's Armed Forces Children's Charity's Crisis Intervention Fund is STILL open to struggling families. If you know of any family that has been impacted by COVID-19 and needs help with food, utilities or children's clothing direct them here:

<https://www.rcet.org.uk/help/familysupport/>

Twitter: @RCET_Scot's Crisis Intervention Fund is STILL open to struggling families. If you know of any family that has been impacted by COVID-19 and needs help with food, utilities or children's clothing direct them here: <https://bit.ly/2ybttBV>

Information from RCET website.

Please contact RCET directly for more specific details.



*Scotland's Armed Forces
Children's Charity*