

Lincolnshire and East Midlands SCiP Alliance Hub Meeting

Minutes

Date: Wednesday 18th October

Time: 14:00 – 15:00pm

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| 1. Welcome, apologies and recording permission | Chair |
| 2. SCiP National Updates | VF |
| 3. Festival of Friends Updates | MB |
| 4. Member's Development Updates | ALL |
| 5. AOB | ALL |

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON AND MS TEAMS) FOR THE LINCOLNSHIRE AND EAST MIDLANDS SCiP ALLIANCE HUB MEETING HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER 2023 2-3PM.

Present:

SON Shaun O'Neill	LiNCHigher Community Projects Manager
JH John Herbert	LiNCHigher Project Manager
JM Jess McNeill	LiNCHigher Community Events and Projects Officer
AS Alexandra Stokes	RAF Families Federation Policy Advisor
BS Beth Sharpe	UoL Student Recruitment Officer
KS Katie Salari	Never Such Innocence CEO
EP Elizabeth Papworth	Rutland CC Schools Education Manager
NW Natalie Williams	
PC Pamela Cave	RAFA Kidz
VF Victoria Fisher	SCiP Alliance Engagement Manager
JF John Ferguson	RAF Waddington Community Development Officer
GG Gemma Gazi	BGU Widening Participation
MB Matt Blyton	Festival of Friends Independent Advisor
KT Karolina Tauer	DANCOP Area Officer – North Notts
LC Luke Chaisty	MPCT Lincoln
BE Becky Edmondson	SRPA Service Children School Led Tutor
NE Niamh East	LiNCHigher Senior Marketing and Communications Officer

Minutes completed by Niamh East (NE)

1. **JH** – Welcome and introductions of members present. Recording permissions gained and started. Updates starting with SCiP Alliance Nationally.
2. **VF** – Discussed updates to the SCiP Alliance website, new impact report being released. Research completed on the challenges faced by professionals in supporting Service Children and what is required to enhance their work.

Also available – 2022-2026 Strategy. Focus on community and impact. Impact report and Strategy link closely together.

Annual Conference commencing in 6 weeks, held in Birmingham. 8 workshops taking place and keynote speakers. Great opportunity to get everyone working with Service Children together. Booking available on SCiP Events page.

Hub network growing – 13th Hub to be added within the next couple of weeks.

Reference to report launch online commencing on 19/10/2023. Philip Dent to be in attendance – Director of SCiP Alliance. Report – ‘Under the Radar’, focussing on Policy, Practice and Evidence of access to HE for Service Children.

3. **JH** – Hand over to Matt Blyton, to introduce Festival of Friends.

MB – The Lincolnshire Festival of Friends will be the 4th iteration. FoF is a collaborative school to school project. Previous FoF’s have been held in Southampton, Yorkshire and most recently Oxfordshire (which included 25 schools). A meeting was held at LORIC on 18/10/2023 in the morning with representatives from 6 local schools, including 2 Secondary and 4 Primary schools. These schools will link to the following bases:

- **RAF Waddington:** Sir Robert Pattinson Academy, All Saints Primary Waddington.
- **RAF Coningsby:** St Michaels CoE Primary, Barnes Wallis Academy.
- **RAF Cranwell + Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, Grantham:** Cranwell Primary School and Ancaster Primary School.

Project being supported by LiNCHigher, the Local Authority – with Michelle Dewland, Armed Forces Education Trust, and Matt Blyton as Independent Advisor and Project Lead. Currently 22 possible schools to work with, with a target of 40 Lincolnshire schools to be involved. Lincolnshire has 4th largest military child footprint, with potentially 180 schools within the area having a Service Child population.

Model will involve Hub schools receiving training and Spoke schools to be trained by Hub schools. Thriving Lives Toolkit to be used as self-evaluation to assess the effectiveness of provision. Areas will be identified to be strengthened and improvement project will occur. Celebration event to be held in June. Inviting students and staff to celebrate work completed and to compile Case Studies of effective work.

AS – Question whether CDO’s at bases are involved to help with school sign up.

MB – Happy to send over letter to be sent on to relevant contacts.

PC – Any thoughts on extending this to Early Years provision?

MB – Yes, EY as important demographic. The Oxfordshire FoF included 1 Early Years setting. Would welcome interested EY setting to join, especially if linked to a particular base.

4. **JH** – Open to Member’s Development Updates. Hand over to Katie Salari to discuss Never Such Innocence.

MB

KS – Highlighted the plans for the Never Such Innocence Roadshow in April. This will focus on the voices of Armed Forces Children, providing their reflections of service life through poetry, speeches, art and song. This will be within Month of the Military Child, April, and will include 60 young people. The celebration event will be at Bishop Grosseteste University on the 19th April.

25th April to be ‘Wear Purple Day’ within MoTMC celebrating young people of service families. Encourage schools to take part.

JH – Handing over to Matt Blyton to discuss the Thriving Lives Toolkit.

MB – Thriving Lives Toolkit provides 7 principles of effective support for Service Children. Schools and educational settings can use this to evaluate their provision for Service Children and identify ways to improve their offering. There will be updates to the TLT, including exemplar material against each of the 40 questions to help schools identify if they are Emerging, Developing or Embedding.

Development of TLT Case Study Programme, requires 50 UK schools. Mixture of Primary and Secondary schools wanted, to assess against each principle.

VF – Case studies wanted from schools with both a low and high proportion of military children, to be able to demonstrate effective work at every level. Work in development for the TLT to be able to help from Early Years settings right through to Higher Education. Also introducing a survey tool, which will be used to gain Service Families’ feedback. This will provide good questions to ask, and provide an area to add user’s own questions. This will generate a summary and provide themes from feedback responses. A positive approach to engaging with parents.

MB – Referring again to case studies: Want to look at schools close to all bases not just RAF.

PC – Thoughts on working with LA to share message with schools? To help promote call for case study schools.

VF – Has worked with LA for webinar on use of TLT. Produced good sign up. Happy to offer webinar out, using LA as a point of contact.

PC – Asking if there was any incentive or scheme to join as a result of having worked with and used TLT?

VF – Being looked into. Aware of scheme in Wales of email signatures displaying ‘military child friendly’ status as such.

MB – Noted that in some cases, the LA’s are working at a reduced capacity, definitely still have some impact, but must be aware that due to academisation, perhaps would be more effective to reach out to larger, multi-academy trusts.

NW – Noted that as a result of 18/10/2023 FoF meeting, school will be promoting the use of the TLT to other schools within the trust.

4. JH – Opened floor to AOB.

LC – From MPCT, as part of Learning Curve Group. Military Preparation Centre for Training – Alternative to FE College. 39 centres nationwide. Lincoln centre located at Barracks on Burton Road providing an alternative experience for young people. Curriculum offers preparation for a military career, including work on soft skills such as teamwork, communication and leadership. Also providing careers advice and guidance.

MPCT offers outreach service to schools, would like to attend local Careers Fairs. Available to students aged 16-19, and up to 25 with relevant funding.

ALL

LC – MPCT provide 2 qualifications:

- Level 2 – Preparation for Military Service. Created with NCFE, alongside the military.
- Level 3 – Military Preparation for Uniformed Services. Includes more proportion of military preparation than other courses.

MB – Question: Is this a privately funded organisation?

LC – Yes, LCG is a privately funded organisation. Level 2 course is a roll on, roll off course, so recruitment can happen at any point in the year. 40 spaces available at MPCT Lincoln, have about 32 filled. Students don't need prior qualifications.

BE – Question: Students can apply if they don't get their Maths and English GCSE's?

LC – MPCT can help them study those if they need to. Positive environment for students who struggle to thrive in a standard classroom environment, half of the course is physical and gets the students active, half is classroom based.

BE – Question: What costs are involved?

LC – Course is free, costs involved are purchasing of uniform, around £150. Support available for those eligible for 16-19 bursary fund.

MB – Queried the progression rates to military.

LC – Progression rate to military is 25% nationally. With 92% positive progression rate to careers, HE, apprenticeships etc. Noted the MPCT is the only training organisation to hold a MOU with Tri-Services.

JH – Website link to be shared with members. Call for members to browse offer.

ALL

KT – Noted recent work from DANCOP Uni Connect. Project around working with strategic groups in Nottinghamshire – Thrive. Knowledge of 600 Secondary School students who qualify for SPP. School with highest proportion has 65 SPP eligible students, which is about 3% of their school cohort. Looking at visit days for 20-40 students:

- 2 days with local colleges
- 1 day with local university

Looking to develop soft skills, setting goals for career path and which education routes they might be interested in. Any suggestions from members of resources?

AS – SCiP has resources on FE/HE options, could be useful.

MB – Suggestion of looking into Creative Forces days ran by Inspiring Choices Uni Connect or Study Higher Uni Connect.

SON – Attending Peterborough Creative Forces Day on 23rd October if able to attend too.

KT – Work will compile to provide useful evaluation on what student's identify as effective support. Will be shared upon completion of project.

AS – Highlighted SCiSS SPP guidance for schools as a good resource.

Early Years funding windows, one just closed, another open until January. Funding for projects available between £5000 and £80,000 to enhance Early Childhood Education and Childcare settings.

RAF FF have resource on website for families and schools on how to get involved with MoTMC in April too.

END OF MEETING

Date of the next meeting: 17th January 2024 – 2-3pm.

Documents and related links:

SCiP Impact Report – <https://www.scipalliance.org/assets/files/Impact-Report.pdf>

SCiP 2022-2026 Strategy - <https://www.scipalliance.org/about/the-scip-alliance-strategy-2022-26>

SCiP National Annual Conference Booking – <https://www.scipalliance.org/events/scip-alliance-annual-conference-2023-1>

Under the Radar Report – <https://www.scipalliance.org/events/under-the-radar-service-children-and-higher-education-in-england-online-report-launch> (*Coming soon*)

NSI Voices of AF Children - <https://www.neversuchinnocence.com/voices-of-armed-forces-children>

Thriving Lives Toolkit – <https://www.scipalliance.org/thriving-lives-toolkit>

RAF FF Guidance on using SPP – <https://www.raf-ff.org.uk/education/schools-5-16-years/service-pupil-premium/>

MOD SPP Best Practice - https://www.raf-ff.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/12._Dec_DCYP_SPP_booklet_final_V2.pdf

RAF FF MoTMC - <https://www.raf-ff.org.uk/education/motmc/>

MPCT Lincoln - <https://mpct.co.uk/location/lincoln/>