

Monthly SCC Newsletter

May 2025



Read on to find out
about our wonderful
award winners!



Service Children's Network

Our termly meetings are open to both Headteachers and any other member of staff who act as 'Service Children Advocates' at your school or organisation. Please continue reading to find out what is in store for our Summer Term meeting!

Social Media



Please follow, like and share our new social media accounts.



servicechildrenschampion@northyorks.gov.uk



Contact us at
our shared
email address



Events



Service Children Awards

The second Service Children Awards took place on Thursday 24th April at The Garden Rooms in Leyburn.

Guests were entertained superbly by Bedale High School's rock band.

Grahame Shepherd MBE was responsible for hosting the awards ceremony and made all of our guests feel welcome and at ease.

Mackenzie Thorpe, shared a special message with the children via a video following on from his recent visit to Catterick Garrison for the Seeds of Love art day.

Awards were presented by members of this year's judging panel and winners received star-shaped trophies. There were so many memorable moments and all of our winners were interviewed by Chris Kaye who hosted a special hour dedicated to the awards on Monday 28th April.

Once again guests were treated to a very special afternoon tea and I would like to involve everyone who supported this event and made it such a special day for our winners.



Award Winners 2025

Creative Champion



A Service child who has excelled in Music whilst based in North Yorkshire



Scarlet

Scarlet has sang in many choirs, on stages as large as Britain's got Talent and at the Houses of Parliament. Scarlet has always been happy to be in the background, letting others shine as she has a truly kind heart and is always happy for others. However her true musical abilities came to light when she joined a little choir in Yarm Church. Scarlet's hard working nature saw her quickly progress through the Royal College of Coral music Medals and her kind nature and love of helping other and inspiring others to take up music have lead to her being appointed Head Chorister. Her music teacher Mrs J Busbridge at SFX who is also her organ teacher and Director of the Choir said

"Scarlet has worked hard on her singing, challenging herself and others by asking to sight sing pieces of music; a difficult task to manage, and is doing a wonderful job as head chorister, helping others when needed!

She has taken to playing the church organ, one of the most difficult instruments to play, really well, and not only is she progressing brilliantly, but is also asking about taking grades and playing in church showing off her level of ambition! She has also been a key member of the school choir last term, and is one of the top members of her music class."

Sporting Champion

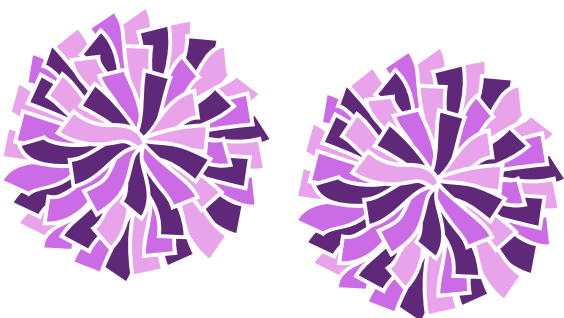


A Service child who has excelled in sport whilst based in North Yorkshire

Lacey and Sienna

Both Lacey and Sienna live and breathe their chosen sport. The hard work, time and dedication that they put in really shows in their achievements. Last year both girls represented Team England at the ICU world championships winning Gold and next month they will be attending NCA in Texas with their Team and also the World cheerleading championships in Florida in April.

These girls were also selected for Gen Next in August where the top 50 athletes in the UK are invited to London to train with the best coaches from all over the world. They do all this while also being exemplary students at Risedale school and also giving up their free time to help coach our younger athletes at Lazer Cheer academy. Their dad is in the army but is posted to Chester so they don't see as much of him as I know they would like to but he is always cheering them on.



Community Champion

A Service child who has gone above and beyond to support their local community



Nevaeh

My daughter Nevaeh has continuously supported the veterans community in Catterick Garrison with her visits to the local veterans community (The Beacon) she has on occasions donated her Easter/Birthday or Christmas money to ensure the residents of The Beacon have gifts for these times of the year. She is a well known face around the Beacon and I believe she gives joy and some much needed morale to the residents on her visits. I believe these actions are selfless by Nevaeh and are amazing by someone as young as 8 years old to have such selfless commitment towards the community and putting others first before herself.



Caring Champion

A young carer who supports their parent or siblings when a Serving parent is away from home



Kelsey

Approximately 5 weeks into an Operation I was notified that my wife, Sarah, had injured herself, losing all the feeling in her left leg and severe back and hip pain and being unable to do basic day to day tasks never mind running around after a toddler and facilitating the basic needs of the other children. With no family to assist without hesitation Kelsey stepped into mini mummy mode. Kelsey has been making all meals for the household, and all the housework that her mummy usually does, or I would do if I was home, making the packed lunches for school for her siblings. Kelsey has taken the responsibility of lifting her 2-year-old sister out of bed in the morning and putting her back into bed for each sleep and managing her safety. She has had to assist her mummy getting dressed and undressed in the morning and evenings along with helping her up and down the stairs.

Service Children Friendly Community Group

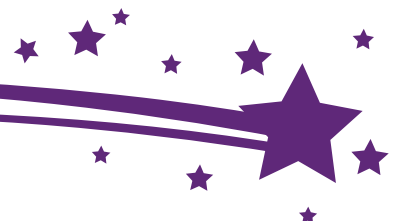


An award for a club or group that goes above and beyond in welcoming and supporting military families

Service Children's Community Choir CIC

The SCC Choir is a big family! All children are valued and all enjoy attending. It is good to see the mixed ages of children all getting on well with each other. The older ones always help the younger ones. It brings children from service families together, regardless of school, to support each other when Dads or Mums are away on tour or exercise. The children know that on a Wednesday night they will get some 'down time' and the parents will get a break too. Children who have no connection with the military are made to feel very welcome too. They all enjoy learning new things every week as Ben and Liz are awesome!

Outstanding performances and fully inclusive in everything they do for all the children involved in the choir and extremely professional throughout the rehearsals and exemplary when doing live performances including Festival Of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall live on BBC TV in 2024 in London, fully deserved and a worthy winner!



Service Children Friendly Education Provider



An award for a school or EY setting that goes above and beyond in welcoming and supporting military families

Carnagill Primary School

As a military family we have moved a lot and this is my child's 5th Primary School. Carnagill welcomed her with open arms, offered us loads of support and access. They've been super understanding with Dad being on 2yr posting abroad and supporting our family and additional needs that we have as a family. They resolve issues quickly in a swift and meaningful manner and are so lovely. They give the kids loads of opportunities and are just fab all round.

Without a doubt, Carnagill and its team of staff go above and beyond to welcome all children from service families. They are welcomed to school and each provided with a brick that they decorate in the quad to give them a sense of belonging, even long after they have gone. Children feel welcomed and loved from the minute they arrive.



Service Children Advocate of The Year

An award to recognise the outstanding support provided by an adult based in one of North Yorkshire's schools whose work directly impacts Service children



Stacey Johnson

Stacey has worked with Service students for many years while also coming from a Military Family herself so can relate to the young people. Stacey acts as a safe and approachable member of staff for all students and enables these service student to have access to support while carers are on deployment, activities and links to the outside Military community.

Stacey has created a detailed and welcoming wall display for service children at the entrance of Risedale School. She welcomes every new service child personally to Risedale and makes sure they have a buddy to help them settle in. She checks in with them on a regular basis to make sure they are settling in well. She takes time to listen to them and will always find the answers to any questions they might ask.

Stacey understands the challenges moving around a lot can bring to a service family and also recognises the needs of the civilian children who don't move often. Civilian children's friends move on a regular basis and then they are expected to make new friends often as the service children come and go. Stacey ensures the new arrivals integrate quickly.

Stacey gives her everything to the Service children at Risedale she is always talking about how she can improve their support at school. She has so many ideas for the future and is so excited to get them in place

Inspirational Service Child of The Year



An award to recognise the outstanding bravery of a Service child

Finlay

In 2017 Finlay's brother Rowan was born. It was obvious early on that Rowan was not a well child. He had some serious issues and was in a wheelchair as a result. In 2023, Rowan died from a growth in his brain. Finlay has shown. Thing but outstanding bravery. He travelled to hospitals to see Rowan no matter where they were and spent weeks apart from his mum and brother. He helped care for Rowan when he was at home. When Rowan died, Finlay made the decision to see Rowan and even spoke at his funeral.

Finlay has never let this have a negative impact on his life, he is kind, caring and brave. He constantly tries to do the right thing and talks about his brother helping to break the taboo of child death. Sadly, Finlay's sister also died in 2016 and although he was much younger then he continues to talk about her. In 2024, Finlay was diagnosed with epilepsy and a brain injury. Instead of letting it get him down, he speaks openly about it and encourages others to do the same. He constantly refuses to allow the things that have happened to him define him and strives to live every day. Although the brain injury means every day things like riding a bike and using cutlery etc are difficult for him he still refuses to allow it to beat him.



Events

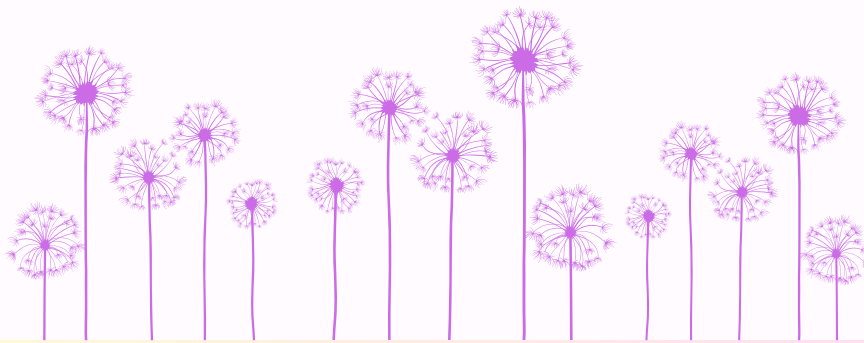


Seeds of Love Art Day 2025

What an incredible day this was! We held the Seeds of Love Art Day at Risedale School on Tuesday 8th April and welcomed almost 100 children. Thanks to funding provided by FEAST and support from PT Childcare we were able to allocate a large number of places to FSM pupils. Locality funding from Cllr Duckett, Cllr Windass, Cllr Hugill and Cllr Baker enabled the production of 100 resin hearts for the project which the children then, inspired by words from Mackenzie Thorpe who attended the event, set about painting and decorating their heart. The children also had access to drama, music and youth voice activities and it was such a positive day. Mackenzie Thorpe is kindly donated the child figure who will feature in our collaborative sculpture and Military Craftmanship CIC are also donating their time to helping with the installation and ensuring a high-quality finish. This is a real community effort and I am very much looking forward to seeing the finished piece in situ next year!



Purple Up Day 2025



I am so pleased to see so many school communities have celebrated 'Purple Up' day this year. I visited Cambrai Primary School and must admit I was really moved when I saw them all dressed in purple and so clearly proud of their connection to the military community. I do hope that many of you shared this year's virtual assembly with your pupils and I am very much hoping some of you have been learning to sing 'Seeds of Sunshine'. I do have a very big favour to ask though!! Would any of you be able to record your children singing it for me as I would love to share this with the children from the Service Children's Community Choir who worked closely with Kelly Fort from Praise-along music to record this song and share their experiences and ideas with her.

I would love for them to see and hear that the song has been enjoyed by lots of other children across our county so if you can send me any clips or footage I would be incredibly grateful. I would also welcome any photos that you may have of your school marking the Month of the Military child that I can share in future newsletters.



Save the Date



Wednesday 11th June

Coming soon...



Festival of Remembrance
Friday 7th November



servicechildrenschampion@northyorks.gov.uk



Contact us at
our new
email address

News



Recently I was welcomed into Outwood Academy Easingwold to deliver some training on the Impact of Service Life on pupils. If you feel your colleagues would benefit from a similar session please do get in touch to arrange the date. The training is suitable for all age ranges and can be adapted as required. Alternatively please do get in touch if there is another way in which I can support your school.

Summer Term SCN Meeting
Wednesday 4th June
10:00am on TEAMS
CPD - Examples of good practice

Summer SCN Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 4th June at 10am on TEAMS**, the second part of the meeting will be an opportunity to reflect on the work of the Service Children's Champion in the last few years as we reach the end of the funding period and an opportunity for you to share ideas and thoughts on how the role could further develop. I would like to hear what you think has worked well and what you would like to see more of in the future.

Also if you have any other business that you would like to be included in the agenda please contact me directly by 9th May.





Our
supporters



Thank You!



What a month!

I absolutely love my job as I get to collaborate and work with so many fantastic schools and educators. Meeting so many Service children and young people reminds me how their experiences are unique, they are not a homogenous group. Investing time in them and celebrating their identity does matter. The Service Children Awards was an incredibly special day and we hope to repeat it next year with the hope that even more children, young people and organisations can be recognised and celebrated. Please don't forget to book in for Armed Forces Day for Children as you are in for a very exciting day! I will hopefully see some of you there!

Angela

