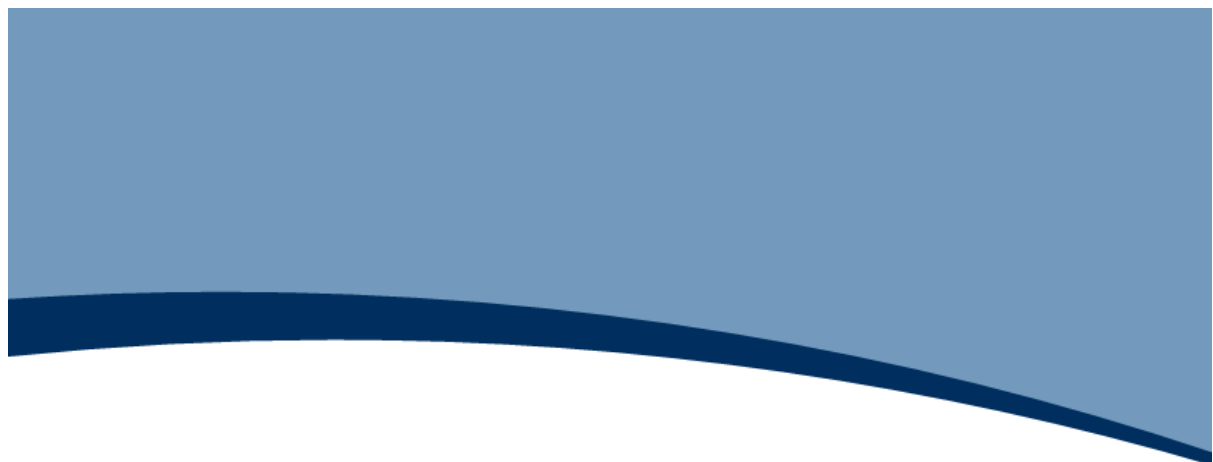


RAF Benson HIVE Bulletin July 2026



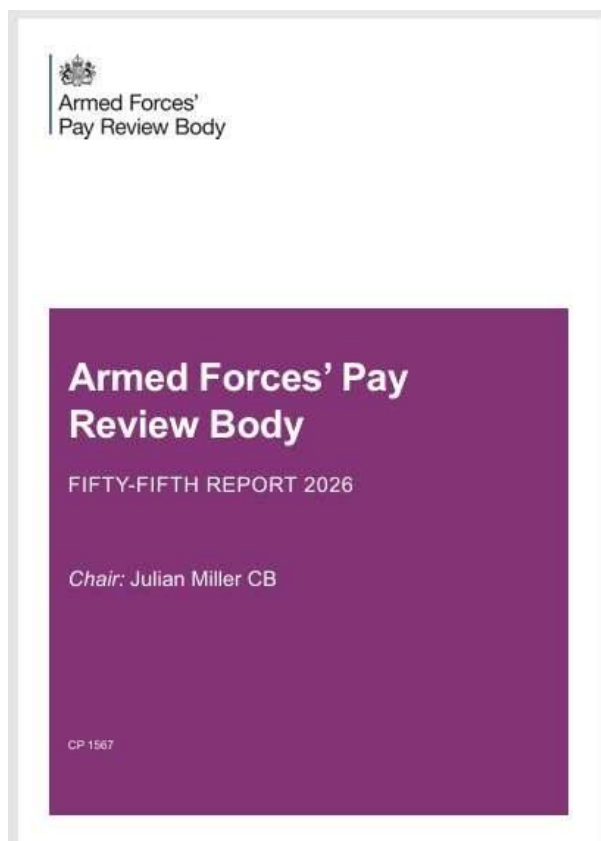
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- News Updates
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- Accommodation Updates
- Families News Updates
- RAF HIVE Service

News Updates

Armed Forces' Pay Review Body Fifty-Fifth Report 2026



Recommendations from the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body on Armed Forces' remuneration and charges.

This Report sets out the AFPRB's analysis of evidence and its recommendations for Armed Forces' remuneration and charges.

The AFPRB provides independent advice to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Defence on the remuneration and charges for all members of the UK Armed Forces.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/armed-forces-pay-review-body-fifty-fifth-report-2026?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=94f8a483-3e83-4ef3-9b1f-7d89cf0d08fd&utm_content=daily

Armed Forces Health, Disability & Carers Network

Supporting Service life, health, disability and caring responsibilities

The Armed Forces Health, Disability & Carers Network (AF HDCN) is a tri-Service network that brings together Service Personnel affected by health conditions, disability, neurodiversity, special educational needs (SEN), illness and caring responsibilities either personally or through supporting a family member.

The network exists to connect lived experience, provide peer support, and help improve understanding of the realities faced by many within the Armed Forces community.

For some, Service life can be shaped by managing a health condition, supporting a disabled child or family member, navigating neurodiversity, or balancing caring responsibilities alongside military life. These experiences are often not visible, but they can have a significant impact on individuals and families.

The AF HDCN aims to create a trusted and inclusive space where Service Personnel can connect with others, share experiences, access support and help influence positive change across Defence.

What does the network do?

The network aims to:

- Build peer support and connection across the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force
- Amplify the voices and lived experiences of Service Personnel
- Help improve awareness and understanding of health, disability, neurodiversity, SEN and caring responsibilities within Defence
- Inform policy, practice and leadership through lived experience
- Promote inclusion, understanding and a more joined-up approach across Defence
- Support improved outcomes for Service Personnel and their families

The network works collaboratively with policy teams, stakeholders and leaders to help improve learning, awareness and support.

Who is the network for?

The network is open to Regulars and Reservists from across all three Services who:

- Live with a health condition, illness, disability, special educational needs or neurodivergence
- Have caring responsibilities
- Support a family member with a health condition, illness, additional needs, disability, or neurodivergence

- Want to help improve understanding and inclusion within the Armed Forces community
- You do not need a diagnosis, formal label or official status to be part of the network.

How to get involved

Members will be able to:

- Join the AF HDCN Microsoft Teams community
- Access information, resources and updates through the SharePoint site
- Engage with the network through Facebook and other communications channels
- Share ideas, experiences and feedback to help shape the network's future development

Find out more

For further information, updates or to get involved, contact:

People-AFHDCN@mod.gov.uk

You can also join the Armed Forces Health, Disability & Carers Network on Facebook for updates and announcements or visit the network SharePoint site on [Defence Connect](#)

Together, we can help improve understanding, strengthen support, and ensure lived experience helps shape a more inclusive Armed Forces community.



Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust message to the Service community

We are beginning our consultation to shape the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust's funding approach for 2027–2030, and we would really value your insight as serving personnel. We have the approval of Gen Humphris (ACDS(People)) to reach out to you.

We want to understand the issues you and your families are experiencing, particularly during periods of high operational tempo, and where there may be gaps or emerging needs. Your lived experience is essential in helping us focus our funding on what would be most genuinely helpful.

We are very conscious of the pressures on your time. So we are asking if you are able to complete an online survey, anonymously, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LWPQ6TY>.

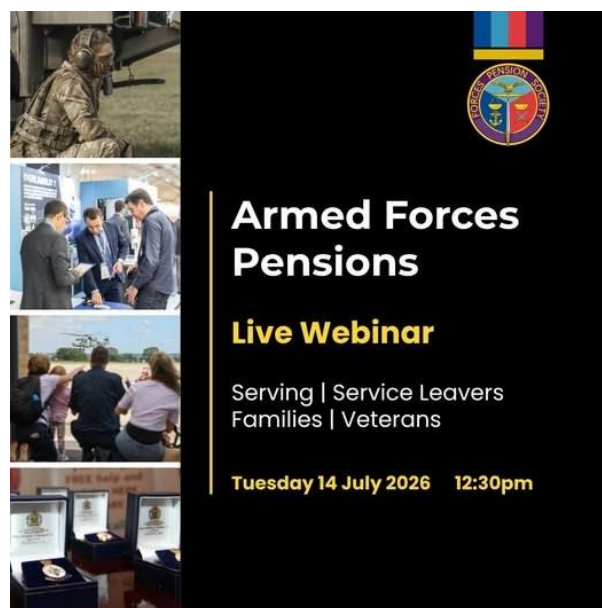
Our role is to complement what already exists by funding services and support that add practical value for you and your families.

If you are willing to share reflections, examples or priority areas we should be considering, your contribution would directly inform how future funding is shaped.

Thank you for everything you do, and for considering supporting this work.



Forces Pension Society



A date for your diary! Join us for our summer Armed Forces pensions webinar. All Welcome!

<https://forcespensionsociety.org/>

MOD Veterans Services: New online form now available for referrals and self-referrals



A new online form is now available, making it easier and quicker to refer to Veterans Services <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-help-from-veterans-services>, who provide information, guidance and welfare support to those who have left or are transitioning out of the Armed Forces.

The form offers a simple and secure way for veterans, serving personnel, and those supporting them to request assistance and supporting guidance. It removes the need to download and complete paper or PDF forms, allowing referrals to be submitted directly to the Veterans Services team who will build and manage your case.

Most referrals can be completed in just a few minutes if you have the relevant information to hand. This may include contact details for you or the person being referred, such as a telephone number, address, Service number, National Insurance number, and date of birth. If you have not served, you can still make a referral – just provide the details of the serving person or veteran you are supporting.

To find out more about the new online referral/self-referral process, please go to:
<https://www.gov.uk/.../make-a-referral-to-veterans-services>

Station and Local Events

Creative & vocational taster and short courses - fully funded

Thanks to a generous grant from The Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund we will be offering adult education classes on site from September please complete the form below to express interest and add suggestions for short/taster courses.

[The Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund & Abingdon & Witney College - adult education – Fill in form](#)

All courses are funded for Serving Personnel and their families



RAF Benson Families Day & BENFEST - 13th August

RAF Benson Families' Day 13 Aug 26 - Passes and Families Flying Applications.

Everyone coming on to the technical side on 13 August 2026, whether attending Families' Day or not will require a Families' Day 26 Pass (this includes those SP & families' that live on the Tech side) as this is a legal requirement for the Flying Display element of the day.

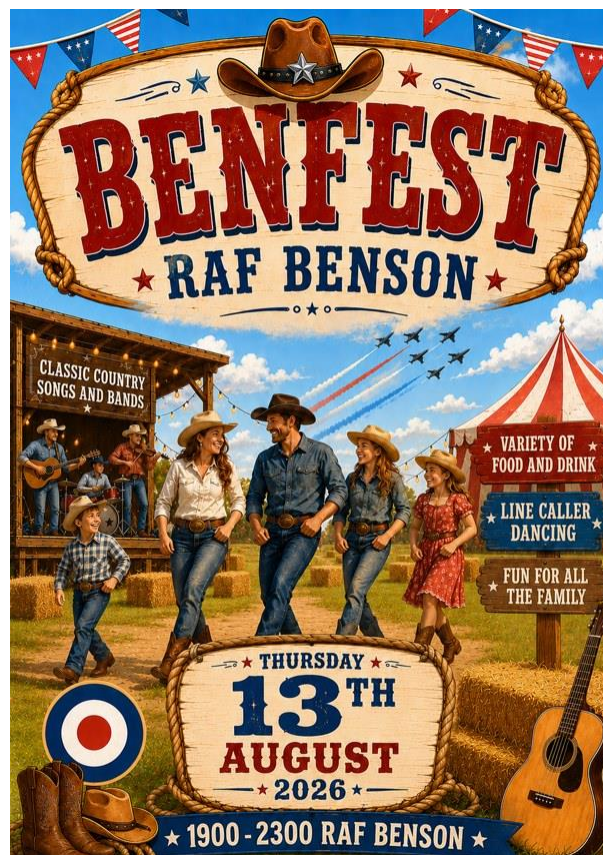
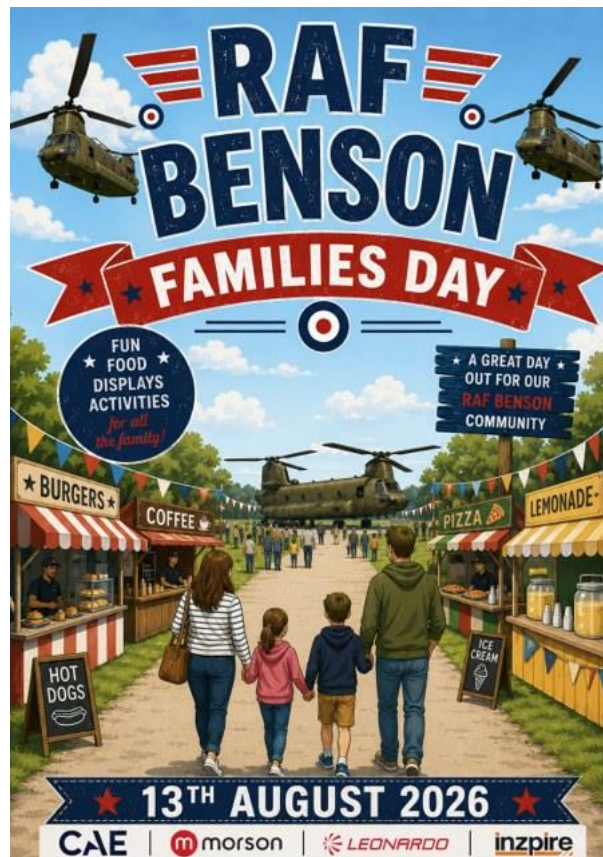
All SP, MOD civilians, contractors & guests visiting the Tech site will require a FD26 Pass, along with Photo ID for anyone over the age of 14. **The App is only accessible on MODNET, the max limit for personnel is 15 (1 Sponsor + 14 Guests).**

All Service Personnel will be responsible for applying for their families passes unless your partner is currently deployed. If this is the case, please pop into the Community Centre as soon as possible and speak with either Janine or Meg and they will be able to assist you further.

Passes and Parking Tickets will be sent to individuals to print closer to the time. No electronic versions will be accepted due to security concerns. Car Passes must be clearly displayed on the day.

Parking will be on the Domestic Side sports pitches if weather is good. If not expect vehicles to park on hard standing across the station. Disabled and VIP parking will be behind the MGR. Further parking information will be released closer to the time.

Deadlines for signing up for the Families Day passes & Flying applications is Friday 31st July.



Sharland Hall Summer Party - 4th July

The Sharland Hall are hosting their annual Summer Party from 2pm - 10pm.

FREE entry, FREE BBQ, Bouncy Castles, Cocktails, Special Ciders/Beers & Guest DJ. Small business stalls will be running from 2 pm - 4pm, BBQ will run from 3pm - 5pm and the Bouncy Castles will be open from 2pm - 6pm.



Charity Cake Bake Sale - 8th July



RAF Benson Primary School Summer Fair

The RAF Benson Primary School will be hosting their annual Summer Fair in the school playground on the 10th July from 4 - 5.30pm. All Service Personnel and their families welcome.



FREE Summer Craft Activities Sessions

There are a few spaces left on some of the Summer Craft Activity Sessions on the following dates, all sessions are running from 1000 - 1130 in the soft play room at the Community Centre:

22nd July - Seaside Tiles & Baseball Cap decorating

24th July - Mandala Coasters & Design you own bunting

27th July - Design your own light up bottles & mosaic jars

10th Aug - Sewing Kits & bookmarks

18th Aug - Treasure Boxes, Pirate Swords & Treasure maps.

We will be holding a waiting list if anyone wants to put their names down for any of the other dates, phone calls will be made a week prior to the event to ensure that all spaces booked are still needed and if not, these will be offered up to a first come, first served basis for anyone on our waiting list!



FREE Herb Planting Workshop - 6th August

Nurture & VIVO are running a FREE Herb Planting Workshop on Thursday 6th August from 1030 - 1130 at the Community Centre which is open to all Service Personnel and their families, Civil Servants and Contractors on station. Only 30 spaces available so sign up to this event is essential. See poster below for more details.



Stn Church Bacon Butty Friday

The Station Church will be hosting their Bacon Butty Friday on the 31st July from 1000 if you would like to down and join them for a butty and cuppa.



RAF Benson Health & Wellbeing Day - 16th September

The RAF Benson Health & Wellbeing Day will be running this year on Wednesday 16th September in the Stn Gym. More information to follow in the coming months.



Officers Mess Happy Hour - Friday 10th July

Officers Mess Happy Hour is open to Officers & their families.



VIVO Interview Skills Workshop

VIVO will be hosting their next online Interview Skills Workshop on Teams on Thursday 9th July. Open to all Service Personnel families, Civil Servants and Contractors, See poster below for more details.



Interview Skills Training



Are you preparing for your next career move?

This workshop will help translate your experience into strong, confident interview answers. You'll learn how to show case your strengths and structure your responses.

-  Practice real scenarios.
-  Sharpen your technique.
-  Step into civilian employment with confidence.

Where: Teams

Date: Thursday 9th July 2026

When: 09:30- 11:00

Contact Tessa.pritchard@vivodefence.com to register.

Station Clubs & Groups




Airplay Benson

OUR WEEKLY SESSIONS

Location: Upstairs in the Station Community Centre Price: £1 Session

Ben Club Tuesdays 4-5:30 Reception - Year 3 (Starting age 5)	Inters Tuesdays 6-8pm Year 6 & Year 7
Juniors Wednesday 5:00-7 Year 4 & Year 5	Seniors Wednesday 7-9 Year 8 onwards

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
 For more information, email Kayleigh Crawley on kayleigh.crawley@oneymca.org or visit airplayconnect.org






The Fund's flagship programme supporting young people in the RAF Community

Calling all high flyers...



Air Scouts take part in an amazing range of activities both on the ground and up in the clouds.

We help young people develop skills for life - including the practical, employability and character skills they need to succeed.

Find out more about what we do - including volunteering opportunities for adults too.

Spaces in all sections:
Beavers: Monday 1800-1900
Cubs: Monday 1800-1930
Scouts: Wednesday 1830-2030

Email: 2ndbensonscoutgroup@gmail.com

scouts.org.uk

#SkillsForLife

Copyright 2018 The Scout Association Registered Charity numbers 306101/SC038437


Scouts
2nd Benson (RAF)

LITTLE CHERUBS' PLAYGROUP



**HELD EVERY MONDAY & THURSDAY
MORNING FROM 0930 – 1100**

**IN THE SOFT PLAY AREA AT THE
COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**£1.00 ENTRY PER CHILD WHICH
INCLUDES SNACKS & JUICE
AND HOT BEVERAGE FOR PARENTS.**

**(All fees go towards purchasing weekly snacks, craft
materials & new toys)**

For any enquiries regarding the group, please
email: BEN-BSW-HIO@mod.gov.uk



Local Area Events & News

Players wanted for U16 football team in Wallingford

They train on Tuesday nights and play matches on a Sunday, home and away(generally in Oxfordshire) they are a friendly, relaxed bunch, enjoy competitive matches with lots of encouragement! They are looking for experienced players to join them for next season.... u17 league. If this interests you please contact Martin Harbord on 07940 544770.

Oxfordshire County Council - Free Park and Ride bus travel

Oxfordshire County Council are offering free park and ride bus journeys in Oxford until mid-August 2026.

This initiative was launched in conjunction with the temporary [congestion charge](#).

Up to two adults and three children can claim free travel to and from [Oxford's park and ride sites](#) with a valid parking ticket.

The free travel ticket is not limited to the dedicated Park and Ride services. You can use your free travel ticket on any Stagecoach, Oxford Bus Company, or Thames Travel bus that stops at a Park and Ride site, not just named park and ride services.

How it works

1. Park your car at any park and ride site and pay just £2.50 for up to 16 hours.
2. Show your parking proof (ticket or app) to the bus driver when you board.
3. Get free return bus travel for you, another adult, and up to three children.

Draft SEND Strategy 2026 - 2029 consultation

In Oxfordshire, representatives from parents and carers, education, health, and social care, work together as the Local Area Partnership (LAP). Using feedback, engagement events and outcomes from inspections, the LAP has co-designed a new SEND strategy. We'd like to hear your views on the draft SEND Strategy for 2026 - 2029.

To find out more information and give your own views on this SEND Strategy 2026-2029 consultation, click here: [Draft SEND Strategy 2026 - 2029 consultation | Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#)

Blenheim Palace - Marlborough Mini Farm

This summer, the Walled Garden comes alive with the sights, sounds and snuffles of the Marlborough Mini Farm. From 21st July to 1st September, the orchard just beyond the garden wall (next to our Adventure Play) plays host to a charming collection of farm animals including our friendly Berkshire pigs, gloriously plumed Buff Orpington chickens, wonderfully shaggy Cotswold sheep and characterful English goats. For more information and ticket enquiries, click here: <https://www.blenheimpalace.com/visitus/families/marlborough-mini-farm.html>

Oxford Brick Festival - Saturday, 11 July 2026 at The Kings Centre.

This will be a great day for families, collectors, adult builders and every other kind of LEGO fan. With lots to see and do including speed building competitions, large scale displays, activities, traders selling loose bricks, new LEGO sets, retired LEGO sets, minifigures & accessories plus a dedicated building area. This celebration of all things LEGO is open to fans of all ages. Booking tickets to secure your place is strongly advised. For more info, click here: <https://brickfestivalevents.com/event/oxford-brick-festival-4/>



The Story Museum - Alice Day Saturday 4th July

Saturday 4 July marks their annual Alice's Day festival, when Oxford transforms into a Wonderland for all to enjoy!

This year's theme is Snarks, Rhymes & Riddles, marking the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's nonsense poem *The Hunting of the Snark*. Their partners across the city are offering an exciting programme of family-friendly events including storytelling, trails, games, crafts, talks and tours, mostly free and suitable for all ages. There is plenty to enjoy at The Story Museum too with half price entry to our immersive Galleries, face painting and storytelling....

Click here for more information: <https://www.storymuseum.org.uk/about-us/alices-day-1>



Science Oxford Centre - Family Days every Saturday.

Visit the Science Oxford Centre, open every Saturday for a unique family experience. Explore, discover and play in the Exploration Zone, where children and grown-ups alike have fun experimenting with interactive exhibits – create and test flying designs at the Air Table, build a giant magnetic ball run, and see what’s hot and what’s not with the Curious Camera. Create fun animations from astronauts exploring space to dinosaurs in a Jurassic world.

With 15 acres of woodland and ponds, there’s plenty to explore outside too. Pick up an Explorer Backpack and see what wildlife you can spot on our Nature Trails. Splash science at the outdoor Water Lab is designed for children to play and experiment with water flow, dams, and floating objects – bring waterproofs or a change of clothes!

For more information, click here: <https://scienceoxford.com/whats-on/family-days/>



Ashmolean Museum - Festival of Archaeology

Free Family Event

Saturday 18 July 2026, 11am–4pm

FREE drop-in activities for all ages

Dig into the world of plants at this Festival of Archaeology at the Ashmolean. Inspired by our current Shaped by Nature season, this year's family festival will offer hands-on activities around the galleries and explore how people used plants in the past.

Drop in anytime during the day and get creative with plant-inspired crafts, storytelling, and live demonstrations that explore collections across the Museum. Try your hand at weaving, make your own botanical pen, excavate archaeological poo, and discover smells of the past.

Click here for more information: <https://www.ashmolean.org/event/festival-of-archaeology-2026>



Oxfordshire Splash Parks, Lidos and water play activity areas in Oxfordshire and around

With the warm weather upon us, why not take a dip and cool down in one of Oxfordshire's Splash Parks, Lidos or water play area. For more information, click here:

<https://oxfordshiremummies.co.uk/days-out-in-and-around-oxfordshire/splash-parks-lidos-and-water-play-activity-areas-in-oxfordshire-buckinghamshire-berkshire-and-around/>



Support

finding it tough?

MENTAL WELLBEING COURSES

Are you or someone you know finding it tough?

We are offering free tailored mental wellbeing training courses for members of the RAF community, specific to your RAF connection, that will help you overcome some of the struggles you may face.

We'll help you to see things differently and learn practical steps to tackle some of life's challenges – or the challenges experienced by the people you care about – helping you and others to take the first steps to get back on your feet.

Who are the courses for?

- All partners, parents, brothers, sisters and children (over 18) of anyone serving in the RAF
- All RAF veterans and their families
- Those supporting the RAF community.

For example: anyone working on an RAF station (e.g. MOD civil servants and defence contractors), medical staff, civilian staff or volunteers.

We welcome people who want to support their friends, family members and colleagues, and spot any signs that they may be struggling, as well as gaining some tips for managing their own mental wellbeing and resilience.

Book now at rafa.org.uk/fit
Call 0800 018 2361
Email FIT@rafa.org.uk



Do you need some headspace?

We offer **FREE** memberships to the online mindfulness app Headspace, for RAF serving personnel and their partners.

- ✓ Improved mood, relaxation and sleep quality
- ✓ Focus on specific areas such as sport, health or happiness

Sign up today: rafbf.org/mindfulness
Or call: 0300 222 5703

 Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund |  headspace

RAF Association's Women's Wellbeing Network



A supportive, open and encouraging environment for serving women to develop their understanding of a wide range of topics that may affect their day-to-day life.

The Women's Wellbeing Network brings serving women in the RAF and Reserves together through an inclusive community and free educational online webinars.

Book your place at one of our webinars today at rafa.org.uk/wwn



rafa.org.uk/wwn
0800 018 2361

 RAF Association
Partners: The Ministry of Defence
Department for Work and Pensions
RAF Reserves Command

RAF Association's Women's Wellbeing Network - Upcoming Women's Wellbeing Network Webinars

9 July – Redefining Strength: Service, Identity and Life Beyond Medical Discharge **Stacey Denyer** shares her powerful personal journey through nearly two decades of military service, an unexpected diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis, and the life-changing reality of medical discharge. If you would like to sign up or see further information, you can do so by visiting rafa.org.uk/www.

Accommodation

RAF Benson Housing Drop In Clinic - 8th July

There will be a Housing Drop In Clinic on Weds 8 Jul 26 from 1000 - 1200 hrs in Classroom 1 of the Learning centre. If you have any Housing issues you wish to discuss with Pinnacle or DIO, please come along and, if possible, bring job reference numbers & photographs with you to help us help you. Please note, there will not be a Drop In Clinic held In Aug 26 due to staff absences and school holidays.

Should you have any ongoing issues with your SFA that you have not been able to resolve, please either come along to the clinic or contact the SFHO, WO Phil Withey Email:

Philip.Withey301@mod.gov.uk or Duty Mobile Number: 07815 697370.



Pinnacle Service Families - Moving



Summer is one of the busiest times for military moves.

If you're planning to relocate, book your appointment as early as possible to secure a time that works for you. Early planning helps everything run more smoothly during peak season.

More summer SFA tips: <https://www.pinnacleservicefamilies.co.uk/.../summer-tips/https://www.pinnacleservicefamilies.co.uk/.../summer-tips/>

Need support? Call 0800 031 8628

DIO: Families First -Issue 39 Published

Issue 39 - Date: June 24, 2026

Families First



Foreword from Tricia Jakeman, Defence Families Champion at DIO

As we mark Armed Forces Week, I want to start by saying a **heartfelt thank you** to all the families who support our Service personnel every single day. I see, both professionally and personally, the commitment and resilience that Service life demands, and I never take that for granted.

As a parent, I also see this from another perspective. My own son is considering a future in the Armed Forces, and that brings with it both a sense of pride and a very real appreciation of what life can mean for families: the moves, the uncertainty, and the time spent apart. It makes me even more determined that we do everything we can to ensure families feel properly supported, particularly when it comes to the homes you live in.

Through the conversations I've had with many of you, I hear clearly how important it is that you feel safe, settled and supported. That's why improving Service housing, and the experience around it, remains such a priority for us.

As we begin to establish the new Defence Housing Service, we are working hard to make meaningful changes. That means not just improving homes, but improving how we listen and respond. Whether through Families Federations, feedback channels, or direct conversations, your voices are shaping the service we provide and strengthening the way we act on what you tell us.

This edition reflects some of that progress, alongside practical support for the months ahead – from summer safety advice to moving home checklists, and opportunities to connect through networks such as the Fathers Network.

We know there is more to do. But please be assured that we are committed to putting families first, and to building a service that truly reflects your needs and experiences.

Thank you, as always, for everything you do to support Defence.



Tricia Jakeman, Defence Families Champion at DIO

Stay connected with Defence Homes updates

Join the Defence Homes community and never miss an update. Families can now subscribe to receive the latest Defence Homes news, helpful updates and our Families First newsletter, all delivered straight to your inbox.

Signing up is quick and easy: just visit Defence Homes and enter your email address.

The latest issue of the Families First newsletter, featuring the latest Defence housing news and updates, is now available on the [Defence Homes website](#)

Defence Homes website now offers a subscriber service, delivering Families First newsletter + the latest housing news updates straight to your inbox. Sign up <https://defencehomes.mod.gov.uk/newsletter-landing-page/>

DIO Update: Publication of NAO Report on the repurchase of the Defence SFA Estate

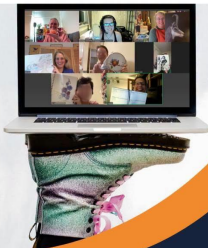
The National Audit Office (NAO) has today published its report into the MOD's buy-back of 36,000 homes. The report confirms that bringing these homes back into public ownership has already stopped what could have been billions of pounds in future losses, while giving the MOD the control it needs to improve housing for families. The homes had originally been sold in 1996 and leased back for many years, at huge cost to taxpayers. Since completing the buy-back in early 2025, the MOD has been able to redirect money previously spent on rent into making homes better. Whilst the report states that the deal to repurchase was the lowest cost option and handled effectively, it also highlights some challenges for the MOD and the need to establish the Defence Housing Service with the powers and autonomy it requires to deliver planned reform efficiently. For the full set of NAO recommendations and details on the report's impact, further information is available on [Defence Homes](#)



Families News

Military Coworking Network

MCN Online Community www.militarycoworking.uk



FREE



Free membership for military spouses & partners

- Online Events - Resource Library -
- Free Business Directory - Facebook Community -

Events Include:

 Virtual Coworking Work with breaks online for body doubling	 Content Planning Club Plan your content for the month ahead with advice	 Masterclasses Learn from experts about topics you request
 Craft & Chat Bring your craft and have a chat with us	 Book Club Chat books with no pressure to read one	 Games Night No experience needed gaming online

www.militarycoworking.uk/online-membership

Free membership for military spouses & partners

https://www.militarycoworking.uk/events?fbclid=IwY2xjawSwcHdleHRuA2FlbQlxMABzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjlwMzcxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEe2jMpG6yN87ugXelrTvAiWDTK9z-uzkOd67EurCDe5UqTCQjCpnyMUL5mD7E_aem_8Hhq7tUzi1Osvdtn6MiOg

Little Troopers is at Royal Hospital, Chelsea



Little Troopers intergenerational event at
The Royal Hospital Chelsea
26th August 2026

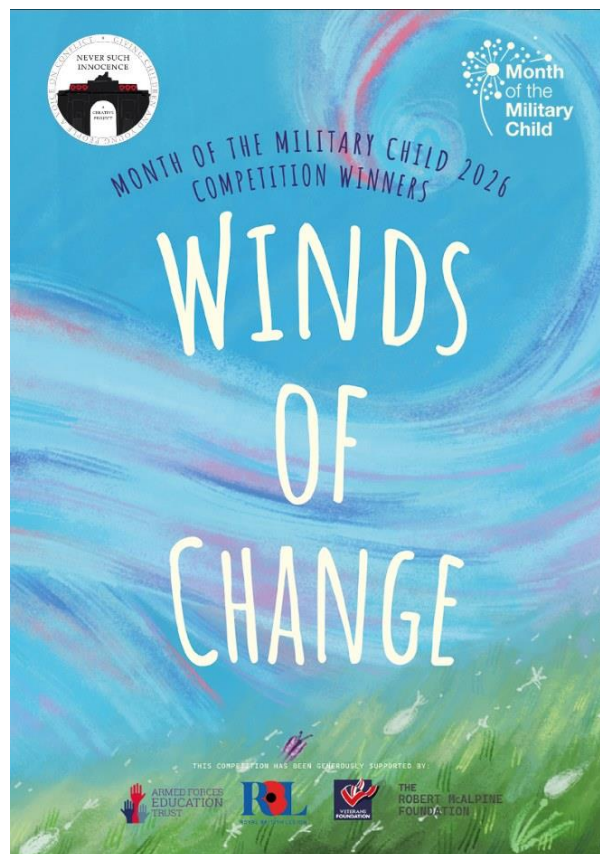
We're heading back to [The Chelsea Pensioners](#) for our second Intergenerational Event of 2026!

You can now register your interest to join us with your Little Troopers for what promises to be another very special day.

Open to families from all three Services, the event is for military children aged 5–10 years. One accompanying adult can attend with each family.

You'll find all the information, along with the application form, via the link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JZSKTFS?fbclid=IwY2xjawSwfaZleHRuA2FibQlxMABzc_nRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjlwMzcxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEe_MQ0OseVpoNIC4yXfxTStPw5VJXJdu0zG8NyiRoJvBJdrfeFkelmAKbU6yc_aem_KT63GUNJ9O6LM

Never Such Innocence Month of the Military Child Poetry and Art Competition Winners



The [Never Such Innocence](#) Month of the Military Child Celebration event took place at the Guard's Chapel in London.

Congratulations to the winners and to all the children and young people who participated in this year's art and poetry competition themed the "Winds of Change".

To view all competition winners on the digital version of the [winners booklet](#)

The RAF Benevolent Fund and One YMCA have launched the latest Airplay Annual Review for 2025.



The 2025 Review highlights the impact of the Fund's national youth programme Airplay, delivered by One YMCA. Airplay marked its fifteenth year in 2025, supporting young people with a safe, consistent, and stimulating programme of activities across 24 RAF stations and online through Airplay Connect.

The recent report found that across the year, there were over 35,100 attendances at Airplay activities, with 3,758 sessions delivered and 6,944 hours of activities. It found that 99% of members feel that Airplay is a safe place for them and 99% of members agree that at Airplay, they feel accepted and can be themselves.

It revealed that 96% of members agree that Airplay has helped them to settle in when they have moved to a new station, as well as 96% of parents who feel that Airplay is helping their child to be more confident.

Youth voice and self-expression are central to Airplay, with regular Youth Forums giving young people a platform to be heard. The programme also offers a Young Leaders initiative. In 2025, the training event at RAF Brize Norton for 28 participants aged 11–17, focused on building leadership, teamwork and confidence.

You can read the full [Airplay Annual Review 2025](#).

RAF HIVE Service



D is for:
International HIVE (iHIVE)



'The iHIVE gave me all the information and contacts my family and I needed to make an informed decision about my next posting overseas.'
Service person posted to France

Have you used HIVE's services yet?
Contact the iHIVE for information about
locations and international postings:
RC-Pers-HIVE-iHIVE-0mailbox@mod.gov.uk

 InternationalHIVE.blogspot.com
 [@ArmyHIVE](https://www.facebook.com/ArmyHIVE)
 [@ArmyHIVEinfo](https://twitter.com/ArmyHIVEinfo)
 www.Army.mod.UK/HIVEs



HIVE Information Centre Location: Community Centre

Tel: 01491 827213 Teams Work No: +44 303 371 8545

Email: Janine.Ansty-Bridges263@mod.gov.uk

Book time with me: [Book time to talk to me.](#)

HIVE Information Centre Opening Hours:

Monday - Thursday 0800 - 1600, Fri 0800 - 1500

Connect Online - [RAF Benson HIVE Facebook](#) RAF Benson HIVE X.com

Station Welfare Contacts

SSAFA: Leanne Wheeler

Office Location: 4 Viking Terrace

Tel: 07384 237984 (office hours only)

Email: Leanne.Wheeler@ssafa-fhs.org.uk

How can we help?

Need someone to talk to? We'll provide a safe space for you to get anything off your chest.

Chaplaincy Centre: The Revd (Sqn Ldr) Michael McCormick & The Revd (Sqn Ldr) Rachel Cook

Office Location: Station Church

Tel: 01491 837766 Ext 6234

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Station RAF People and Families Support Contacts



Station Families housing Officer (SFHO): Phil Withey

Office Location: Community Centre

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Community Development Officer (CDO): Meg Wickett

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