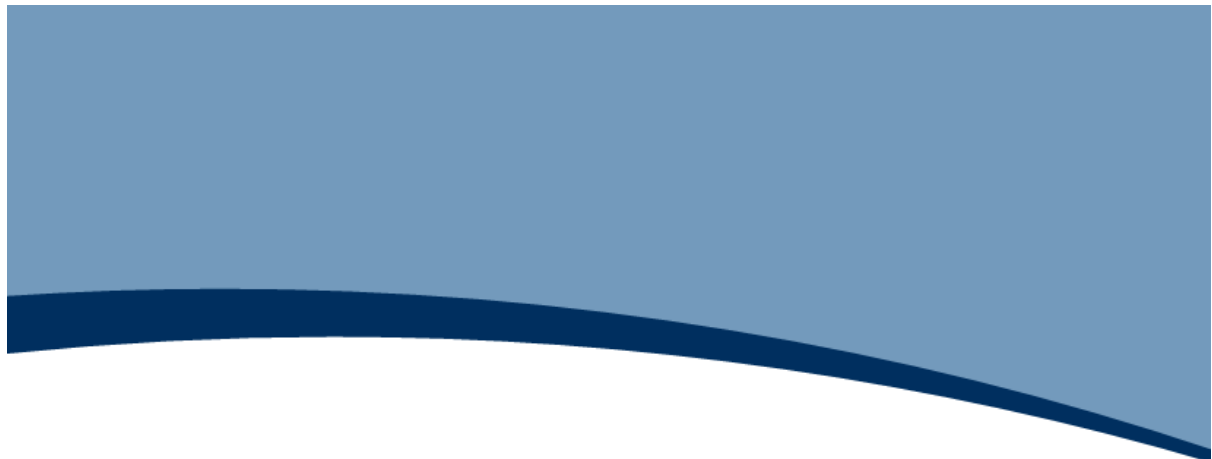


RAF Benson HIVE Bulletin November 2025



Contents



- News Updates
- Station Facilities/Events News
- Accommodation Updates
- Families News Updates
- Local Area Events
- RAF HIVE Information Service

News Updates

Are you satisfied with your Armed Forces reward package?



Defence launches a new 'Offer survey' – a chance for Regular serving personnel to influence their Armed Forces reward package.

Pay? Accommodation? Leave? What parts of the Armed Force's reward package matter most to you? [Take the Offer survey](#) and help Defence's policy makers to better meet your needs.

All feedback is **confidential** and will not be seen by your Chain of Command.

Are you getting what you need from your reward package?

For the first time, Regular personnel can tell Defence what you really think about your Armed Forces Offer, and the range of [benefits, allowances, opportunities and support](#), that come with it.

Whatever your rank or profession is, it's important to hear from you.

Your feedback will help Defence's senior leaders and policy makers to prioritise and deliver targeted and efficient improvements to Your Offer.

These improvements will be informed by what you care about most, and where extra support is needed.

Defence intends to hold this survey annually, which will help to monitor trends and assess the impact of changes to Your Offer over time.

Why has Defence started this survey?

Armed Forces personnel make an extraordinary contribution to ensure the UK is secure at home and strong abroad. It is only right that Defence recognises your Service, and in doing so, helps you to navigate – and thrive – at work, home, and in life.

A thriving workforce means a Stronger Defence to protect the nation's families, interests and allies. To recruit – and keep – a talented and skilled workforce, Your Offer is designed to recognise the unique nature of military life, and that your professional and personal needs will change over time.

Make sure your voice is at the heart of changes that affect you. Tell Defence which parts of the Offer you value the most, and how satisfied you are with them.

How do I take part?

[Take the survey](#) by 11.59 pm, **Monday 1 December 2025** – you can use a MODNET or personal device. All you need is a Defence Gateway account and 30 minutes.

Your feedback will be treated in **confidence** and will not be seen by your Chain of Command.

How is the Offer survey different to AFCAS?

Some of you may be thinking that this sounds a lot like the [Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey \(AFCAS\)](#). The Offer survey is quite different...

Regular personnel should take the Offer survey. Those invited to take AFCAS should complete that too.

What's the difference?

Offer survey – closes on 1 December 2025

AFCAS – closes on 2 February 2026

- Asks you to rate how important specific parts of Your Offer is to you, and how satisfied you are with them.
- Your opportunity to directly influence the future of your reward package.
- All Regular personnel can take part.
- Asks for your views on a range of topics to do with daily aspects of Service life.
- Your opportunity to inform Armed Forces policies and initiatives on living and working conditions.
- Service personnel are randomly invited to take part, as part of a representative sample.

Together, these surveys give senior leaders and policy makers the evidence they need to improve Service life for you.

Want to know more about the Offer survey?

Read FAQs about the Offer survey.

For information on the wide range of benefits, allowances, opportunities and support available in the Armed Forces Offer, [visit the Discover my Benefits site.](#)

Celebrating Forces Families



Celebrating the Heart Behind the Uniform

Through heartfelt events and shared stories, we recognise their sacrifices and celebrate their resilience

Join our mission to honour the families of our Armed Forces!

★ Nominate a deserving family member or organisation to recognise their dedication and Support to the Armed Forces Families.

★ Share their inspiring stories to spread gratitude and awareness, via our podcast and news.

★ Volunteer, donate, or spread the word

WWW.CELEBRATINGFORCESFAMILIES.CO.UK

A Celebration of Forces Families Through Awards, Podcasts, and Positive News"

AWARDS

PODCAST

SHARING GOOD NEWS STORIES

JACOBS MEDAL

WWW.CELEBRATINGFORCESFAMILIES.CO.UK



Nominations Open for the 2026 [Celebrating Forces Families](#) Awards

The Celebrating Forces Families Awards are delighted to announce that nominations for the 2026 ceremony are now officially open!

These national awards honour the exceptional contributions of UK Armed Forces families, recognising the strength, resilience, and dedication of those who support our military personnel behind the scenes. Whether through personal achievement, community impact, or professional excellence, these families play a vital role in the life of the Armed Forces.

Sarah Walker CFF, spokesperson for the awards, said:

"Forces families are the unsung heroes of our military community. These awards are about giving them the recognition they truly deserve and showcasing the incredible ways they contribute to the fabric of Armed Forces life."

Award Categories for 2026 Include:

- Inspirational Adult Family Member of the Year
- Young People's Award
- Overcoming Adversity
- Volunteer of the Year
- Away From Home Award
- Social Media Influencer
- Military Family Charity
- Armed Forces Advocate(s) of the Year
- Small Business Owner
- Public Service Award
- Business Award

Claire Lilly, winner of the 2024 Inspirational Family Member of the Year award, shared:

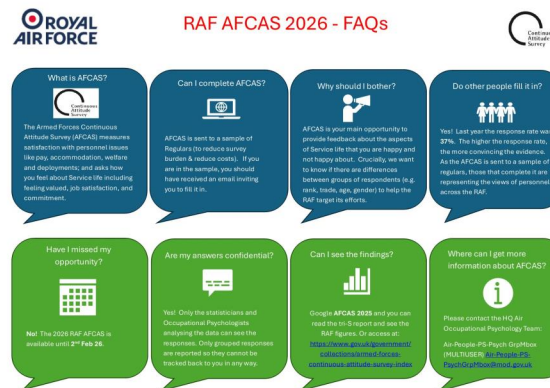
"Being recognised by the Celebrating Forces Families Awards was deeply humbling. My campaign, The Forcer Protocol, was born from personal tragedy, but this award reminded me that even in grief, we can create something powerful to help others. It gave me hope — and a platform to make real change for vulnerable veterans and their families."

Want to know how to make a nomination -

<https://www.celebratingforcesfamilies.co.uk/.../nominate>

Deadline for submissions is Monday 15th December

Armed Forces Continuous Attitude Survey



RAF AFCAS 2026 out now! The survey runs from **8 Sep 25** until **2 Feb 26**. Last year 37% of RAF participants returned an AFCAS; 8% higher than the tri-Service response rate. We use valuable AFCAS feedback to inform RAF and tri-S staffs to improve the working lives of RAF personnel; and help shape the RAF Strategy.

To find out if you are one of the Regular Service Personnel invited to complete this year's survey you can type in your Service Number on the [Continuous Attitude Survey Eligibility Tool](#). Those that complete an AFCAS are representing the views of personnel across the RAF. The sampling method provides a good level of confidence in the results without having to survey everyone, reducing survey burden and fatigue.

Even if you have not been invited this year, we would still like to hear from you. The tool will direct you to a shorter survey for you to have your say.

For more information, please contact Air-People-PS-PsychGrpMbox@mod.gov.uk

Christmas Posting Dates

Latest Posting Dates for Christmas 2025



Between UK and BFPOs Worldwide

To ensure your Christmas letters and parcels reach their destination in good time, it's always a good idea to post as early as possible.

Outbound UK to BFPO's Worldwide

Static Firm Base/PJOBS	Operations	HM Ships
Latest Posting Date from UK 24 NOV	17 NOV	17 NOV
Latest Arrival at BFPO 3 DEC	24 NOV	24 NOV

Inbound UK from BFPOs Worldwide

All locations, including HM Ships, are to note that the deadline for return of mail to meet delivery of items in UK should be targeted at Wednesday, 17 December 2025 for all class of items.

This will allow BFPO enough time to transfer private mail items into the UK civil mail system in time for Christmas or for items to be processed through Royal Mail's Heathrow Worldwide Distribution Centre.

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Latest Posting Dates for Christmas 2025



Between UK and BFPOs Worldwide

MOD Christmas Families Free Mail Service - 2025

Friends and family members of UK Service personnel based in The Falkland Islands, Ascension Islands and Diego Garcia will be able to access the MOD Christmas Families Free Mail Service at any UK Post Office/overseas Forces Post Office from **Monday, 27 October** until **Monday, 24 November 2025**, after which the entitlement to a free small parcel service will cease.

The BFPO numbers/locations which are additionally included within this welfare entitlement are:

- BFPO 485 – Diego Garcia
- BFPO 494 – Falkland Islands
- BFPO 655 – Falkland Islands
- BFPO 677 – Ascension Islands
- BFPO 678 – Ascension Islands

Customers can post MOD Christmas Families Free Mail Service items to the above BFPO numbers/locations, if:

- Free small parcels **do not exceed 2 kg** in weight.
- Free small parcels must have a **fully completed customs declaration (CN22)** and customers must tick the 'gift' declaration box on the CN22.
- Free small parcels **don't contain prohibited items** (e.g. aerosols, shaving foam or alcohol).
- Free small parcels must be **within size limits**: Minimum one surface at least 90 mm x 140 mm. Maximum length + depth + width = 900 mm with greatest single dimension not more than 600 mm (e.g. an average medium shoe box size).
- **Only relatives and friends** within the UK or at BFPO overseas addresses can send free small parcels to named Service personnel and entitled MOD civilians.
- All free small parcels must be handed in to a UK Post Office/overseas Forces Post Office and customers are advised to keep their certificate of posting.

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RAF Occupational Wellbeing Survey 2025



Have you been invited to take part?

The RAF Occupational Wellbeing (OW-B) Survey is now available to complete. The survey is issued every two years to a sample of Regular trained RAF personnel of all ranks. The survey sits alongside recent mental health and wellbeing surveys, and reports, which have considered specific Mental Wellbeing issues.

The following message from AVM Simon Edwards (Director People and RAF Suicide Prevention Champion) provides the foreword to the survey:

'Your mental, physical health and wellbeing is vital and important to us. A healthy workforce is prepared for the present and fit for the future; we all need to be at our best so the RAF can always be ready to fly and fight. Completing the RAF Occupational Wellbeing Survey is important as it helps highlight our commitment to provide a healthy and safe environment in which all our people can thrive, now and into their futures.'

The survey is sent to a sample of Regular RAF personnel and provides insights to emerging wellbeing issues and self-reported strain levels. This eighth reiteration of the survey means we can see trends, highlighting what is improving or worsening so we can target stress and resilience help where it is needed most.

The results will help shape activities under the RAF's Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Mental Wellbeing & Resilience Action Plan.'

Check your emails to find out if you have been selected to take part.

To access the survey click: <https://surveys.mod.uk/index.php/234683?lang=en>


Please use your **Service number** as the token/access code to enter the survey.

You can tell us about your experiences until **8th December 2025**.

FAQs

- **How is the survey anonymous (if you are asking for my serving number and details that can specifically identify me)?** – *We use service numbers to restrict participation, but once you complete the survey the data is separated from your identity. The psychologist analysing the data will receive it as bulk response i.e. 30 people responded 'yes' to this question. The survey is voluntary, and it is your choice to respond. We do appreciate all responses as the more replies we have the greater the data we have to help form policy.*
- **The Lime Survey platform isn't working?** – *Unfortunately, the survey platform we use can freeze if a lot of people are attempting to fill out the survey all at once. Please be patient and try again, perhaps on a different day.*
- **Why is the OW-B selective?** – *We select a sample to reduce survey burden. It is not necessary to survey all personnel to make generalisations across the RAF population – to ensure assumptions are accurate and not biased, weighting is applied to the data.*
- **What happens with the results?** – *Survey responses will be treated in the strictest confidence and only the civilian Occupational Psychologists at HQ Air will see them. With regards to reporting the results, we aim to present a balanced picture by highlighting the key areas of satisfaction, as well as the main areas of dissatisfaction/negativity. Changes can sometimes take a long time to implement and therefore it may appear that the results are not making an immediate difference. However, the Wellbeing and Resilience Team value and rely heavily on this source to ensure that policies meet personnel needs.*
- **Where can I see the findings?** – *The OW-B report will be available on the [HQ Air Occupational Psychology SharePoint](#) under Published Research.*
- **Where can I get more information?** – *A full explanation of how responses are collected and used is provided with the online survey. For any further queries please contact the HQ Air Occupational Psychology Team: Air-People-PS-Psych GrpMbox (MULTIUSER) Air-People-PS-PsychGrpMbox@mod.gov.uk*

RAF Association Women's Wellbeing Network





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/wnn



rafa.org.uk/wnn
0800 018 2361



Patron: Her Majesty The King
Approved Charity, Charities Commission & HMRC
Registered in England



Upcoming webinars

The link between Mental Health and Physical Health with Carola Becker
Wednesday 14 January, 1230hrs-1330hrs


Loneliness in Command with Air Commodore Toria McPhaden CBE RAF
Thursday 12 February, 1230hrs-1330hrs

Women & Exercise: the effects of exercise on health, performance and the menstrual cycle with Dr Emma O'Donnell
Wednesday 4 March, 1230hrs-1330hrs

Making Stress Your Friend - It's all about being Challenged with Dr Jamie Barker
Thursday 19 March, 1230hrs-1330hrs

Women & Wealth - Bridging the Gender Gap with Leigh Dunkley-Harrison
Thursday 16 April, 1230hrs-1330hrs

rafa.org.uk/wnn
0800 018 2361



Patron: Her Majesty The King
Approved Charity, Charities Commission & HMRC
Registered in England

Accommodation

New Defence Housing Strategy published

Defence Housing Strategy

Following an announcement by Secretary of State for Defence, John Healey MP this afternoon, we are delighted to share the new [Defence Housing Strategy](#).

Independently led by a team of experts and driven by the input of more than 6,000 service families, the strategy sets out the most significant change for Armed Forces housing in over 50 years. It marks the start of a fully costed ten-year programme to reshape, redevelop and modernise the Defence housing estate to best meet the realities of modern service family life.

We have summarised some of the key changes set out in the strategy for you and your family below:

Redevelopment and modernisation of UK SFA

- Every service family deserves a home they can be proud of. This transformation will create thousands of high-quality homes, supporting our Armed Forces and their families for decades to come.
- We will be giving over 40,000 military homes a makeover – new kitchens, bathrooms and heating systems to ensure you have what you need for comfortable modern living. 14,000 of these homes will be substantially refurbished or replaced.
- Rapid improvements are already underway through a Consumer Charter for Forces Families introduced earlier this year. New and upgraded military homes will meet modern property standards comparable to the best professional housing organisations, ensuring they are warm, spacious and of high quality.

'Forces First' and the new Defence Housing Service

- A new Defence Housing Service will be created as a standalone organisation in the MOD with a "Forces First" ethos at its heart and the lived experience of Service personnel and their families as its central mission. We will keep you fully informed as this develops.
- Work to raise the minimum standard of 1,000 of the worst military family homes has proceeded at pace across the UK since April 2025 and will be complete by the end of December 2025.
- A new complaints process which streamlines the process from three to two stages to achieve quicker resolution for families, was launched on 1 October 2025.

Widening access to accommodation

- Military life today looks different than it did years ago, and our housing policies will reflect modern family life. The Strategy sets out for the first time a deliverable, sustainable approach to widening access to accommodation for those in long-term relationships, or who are non-resident parents.
- Building the homes to meet the extra demand will take time; to support qualifying Service personnel in the interim, a rental support scheme will allow families to rent privately while homes are made available.
- Further details, including a timeline for widening access, will be provided to families as soon as possible.

Defence Developments

- A “Forces First” approach will be taken when building housing on Defence development land whereby opportunities will be sought for Service personnel and veterans to have purchase priority for new homes. This will include discounted homes and housing organisations who provide support for veterans.

How can I find out more information on the interim rental support accommodation allowance?

A dedicated Accommodation Support Cell and phone line have been set up to support the future planned interim rental scheme. The line is open, but please note that the operators are currently unable to provide detailed information. Further updates will be shared as soon as more information becomes available.

Tel: 0800 368 7406 or email People-Accom-ASC@mod.gov.uk

Lines are open from:

Mon-Thu 8:30 - 16:30

Fri 8:30 – 15:30

What next?

While this Strategy focusses on family accommodation, the MOD will undertake a rapid follow-on review of Single Living Accommodation in the coming months. Proposals will also be developed to address the condition and service standards for overseas family homes.

Your feedback is making a real difference, and we will continue to ensure families have a stronger voice in decisions around the future of Defence housing. The Future of Defence Housing Questionnaire received over 6,300 responses, providing invaluable insights which have directly influenced the development of the Strategy. Those of you who left contact details when completing questionnaire may be invited to share more insights in the future as

the Defence Housing Review Team decide which areas they would like to focus on for future research.

As a reminder, for general queries related to your SFA you can contact your designated [Pinnacle Housing Officer](#). For repairs and maintenance requests, please contact the National Service Centre on 0800 031 8628.

Ministry of Defence

A generational renewal of military housing

Over **40,000** homes to be modernised, refurbished or rebuilt



Delivering for the nation

A ten-year programme of housebuilding on surplus Defence land



A 'Forces First' approach

New homeownership opportunities for military personnel and veterans

Patch Hacks: New painting guidelines for UK SFA

Defence Homes

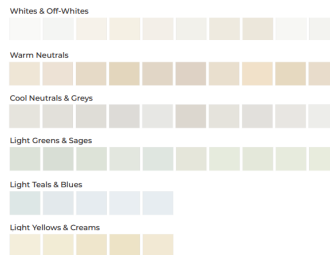
Colour Palette

For SFA Homes

— DEFENCEHOMES.MOD.GOV.UK —

Defence Homes Colour Palette

The Defence Homes Colour Palette features light and versatile neutral colours. Letting you decorate your home in your own personal style - without the need to revert to white when you move out.



Top Tip: Don't forget to keep some of your chosen paint colour for any required touch-ups.

Patch Hacks: New painting guidelines for UK SFA

As part of our commitment to modernise outdated policies and give Service families more freedoms, DIO has introduced a new Defence Homes Colour Palette.

We understand that being able to personalise your home is important. Whilst previously all interior walls had to be returned to magnolia or white before moving out, our new colour palette offers a broader range of colours for families to choose from.

Colours within this range are light and neutral and will not require reverting to white. Take a look at our new colour palette along with some inspiration on how they could be styled in your home [here](#).

To give you as much freedom as possible, we haven't dictated particular paint brands, colour names or types (like matt or silk). If you're unsure whether your chosen colour complies with the approved range on the colour palette, you can check with your dedicated [Housing Officer](#).

As always, you are welcome to paint your interior walls other colours outside of the new palette range, but these will require reverting back to white upon move out.

More information on this new policy, including a Top Tips guide for painting the interior of your SFA, can be found on the [Defence Homes website](#). This includes helpful guidance on everything from choosing the right type of paint for a room to prepping the walls and aftercare.

Pinnacle Services Families

Our next virtual outreach day will take place on Wednesday 12 November

These events provide the opportunity for Service Family Accommodation residents to connect with us online via Microsoft Teams for personalised support and guidance.

Whether you need help with allocations, a tricky repair, or have questions about your housing, our team is here to help.

Sign up for the virtual session here: <https://lnkd.in/emEuWFeY>

Open office events: <https://www.pinnacleservicefamilies.co.uk/openoffices/>

Housing clinics: <https://www.pinnacleservicefamilies.co.uk/drop-in-sessions/>




Winter Advice - Safe Use of Portable Electric Heaters

In some cases, you may be provided with a temporary electric heater while your heating system is being repaired. These heaters can be helpful - but it's important to use them safely to protect your home and family

Please follow the guidance on our website to ensure safe use and peace of mind: <https://www.pinnacleservicefamilies.co.uk/.../winter-advice/>



Civilian Housing Options Briefs 2026

 **Civilian Housing Options Briefs 2026**

Defence
Business
Services

Designed for service personnel and/or families to provide information on: Purchasing & renting, home ownership, Forces Help to Buy Scheme, social housing and charity support.

Regardless of how long you have served, or how long you have left to serve, it is important to understand your housing options. What options have you considered? Are you thinking of home purchase, private renting or social housing?

Date	Start Time	End Time	Brief Type
15/01/26	1400	1530	Civilian Housing Briefing
12/02/26	1400	1530	Civilian Housing Briefing
12/03/26	1400	1530	Civilian Housing Briefing
23/04/26	1400	1530	Civilian Housing Briefing
14/05/26	1400	1530	Civilian Housing Briefing
11/06/26	1400	1530	Civilian Housing Briefing
16/07/26	1400	1530	Civilian Housing Briefing
10/09/26	1400	1530	Civilian Housing Briefing
15/10/26	1400	1530	Civilian Housing Briefing
12/11/26	1400	1530	Civilian Housing Briefing
10/12/26	1400	1530	Civilian Housing Briefing

To register and provide your details please visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/information-and-guidance-on-civilian-housing>

Click the registration link for the briefing date you wish to attend.

In addition to delivering civilian housing briefs, MoD Veterans Services exists to provide information and support for those Service Leavers and their families who are most likely to face challenges as they leave the armed forces and adjust to civilian life. For more information please visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-for-service-leavers-and-their-families>

PREPARE EARLY – LEAVE WELL

Housing Drop-in

There will be a Housing Drop in Clinic on Weds 12 Nov 25 from 1000-1200hrs in the TDF. Please come along and speak to the SME's in respect of you housing needs. If you are unable to make this time, please contact WO Withey, SCSO (BEN-AB-SSS-SCSO) who will be able to advise on housing matters.



Families News

Santa's Post Box is located outside the Community Centre now!

The RAF Benson HIVE Officer has spoken to Santa's Elves and they will be passing the Community Centre between the 17th October until the 21st November to collect all of Santa's post. If you have been good boys and girls, make sure you write to Santa and tell him what you would like for Christmas

See poster below for more information.



Station Church Upcoming Events

7th December - A family friendly Sunday service, followed by the opportunity to decorate your station church for the festive season.

8th December - Messy Christingle at 1800.

10th December - Carols by candlelight at 1900.

24th December - Midnight Mass at 2300.

RAF Benevolent Fund & RAF Benson Charity Concert 2025

The RAF Benevolent Fund & RAF Benson will be hosting their annual charity concert in Dorchester Abbey on Thursday 27th Nov. See poster below for more details.



Airplay Mini Christmas Draw 2025

The Airplay Team will be hosting their first ever Airplay Mini Christmas Draw on Tuesday 16th December which is open to all RAF Benson Service children. More details to follow.



Airplay Mini Christmas Draw Save the Date

Tuesday 16th December
Sports Bar
More information to follow



New members are always welcome
please email kayleigh.crawley@oneymca.org

RAF Benson Work Experience 2026

Applications for RAF Benson 2026 work experience are now open!!!

GCSE placement: 27 Apr – 1 May

A-Level placement: 29 June – 3 July

Due to popularity, placements are not guaranteed. Successful applicants will be contacted to confirm a placement by 31 Jan 26.

The application form is publicly available on the RAF Benson website - contact-us tab.

[Contact us](#) | [RAF Benson](#) | [Royal Air Force](#) Direct any questions to Ben-YouthEngagement@mod.gov.uk



RAF Benson Road Safety Week

RAF Benson Road Safety Week will be taking place between 17 - 20 November 2025.



The poster features the RAF crest at the top, followed by the title 'RAF Benson Road Safety Week' in bold black text on a yellow background. Below this, the dates 'Monday 17th—Thursday 20th November 2025' are listed. The main content is organized into four horizontal bars, each with a different background color and an icon representing the day's activity: a car for Monday, a road sign for Tuesday, a truck for Wednesday, and a bicycle for Thursday. Each bar includes the date, the activity name, and the time and location. At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the slogan 'STAY ALERT. STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES.'

RAF Benson
Road Safety Week

Monday 17th—Thursday 20th November 2025

MONDAY 17th NOVEMBER
LAND ROVER SAFETY BRIEF
0800 –1200 AT MT CLASSROOM

TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER
HIGHWAYS AGENCY BRIEF
0800 –1200 AT THE FRAY SUITE

WEDNESDAY 19th NOVEMBER
SAFETY CHALLENGE DAY—[Book here](#)
0800 –1200 AT THE FRAY SUITE

THURSDAY 20th NOVEMBER
CYCLE SURGERY— FREE BIKE CHECK
0830 –1530 AT THE MAIN CAR PARK

STAY ALERT. STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES.

Station Medical Centre Christmas Opening Hours

Please see poster below for the RAF Benson Medical Centre Christmas & New Year Opening Hours.



Community Centre Weekly Clinics

The Solicitor and Mortgage Advisor will be visiting RAF Benson on the following dates if you would like to book in for a FREE 30 minute appointment to speak to one of them.

Solicitor - 26th November.

Mortgage Advisor - 27th November.

For more information on booking appointments please email: BEN-AB-HIO@mod.gov.uk

RAF Benson Station RAF People and Families Support Christmas Opening Hours

The HIVE Office will be closed from Friday 12th December until Friday 2nd January 2026.

The Padre's will, as per direction from Air take the Christmas grant 20 Dec to 4 Jan. However there will be a duty padre covering the duty phone (07815 697116 No Texts) throughout the grant.

SSAFA can be contacted on [Contact the RAF Personal Support and Social Work Service | SSAFA](#)

The SSAFA Officer can be contacted on: Tel: 07384 237984 or Email: leanne.wheeler@ssafa-fhs.org.uk , office hours only until COP 24th Dec & 29,30,31 Dec only.

Local Area Events

Abingdon Bonfire & Fireworks 2025

The Abingdon Bonfire & Fireworks 2025 is being held on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at the [Abingdon Airfield](#). The event will feature the UK's largest fireworks, light, and laser display, a huge bonfire, the "South of England's largest fairground," monster truck rides and much, much more. Click here for more info: <https://www.abingdonfireworks.co.uk/>



South Oxfordshire Christmas Fair



Abingdon Town Council Annual Tree Lightening Event

The Abingdon Town Council will be hosting their annual tree lightening event on the 20th November from 1630 - 2000.

What to expect:

Local school choir performance

The Grinch + Santa & his elves

Free children's activities

Magical snow machine

Dance performance

Mulled wine, mince pies &

hot chocolate for sale

Play 2 Give raffle

Free parking



RAF HIVE Service




HIVE Information Officer (HIO): Janine Ansty-Bridges

Location: Community Centre

Opening hours: Mon - Thurs 0800 - 1600, Fri 0800 - 1500

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

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



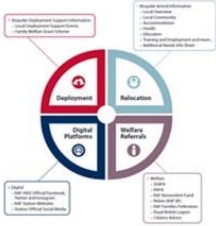
RAF HIVE SERVICE

RAF HIVEs Information Centres
The network of HIVEs serves as a central point of contact for Service personnel and their families, whether they live on or away from the unit.

HIVEs are the focal point in providing an extensive range of information and support services, covering areas such as relocation, accommodation, deployment support, health & wellbeing, employment and training opportunities, and early years and education.

The RAF HIVE Service is an integral part of the People & Families Support welfare team, dedicated to looking after service personnel and their families by offering timely and accurate information and assistance.

RAF HIVE Information Officers are not trained in welfare counselling however, they can offer initial support to individuals and can make referrals to appropriate professional services. All HIVE staff are bound to a Code of Confidentiality.



Deployment

- Deployment Support
- Accommodation
- Employment
- Training
- Early Years and Education

Relocation

- Relocation Support
- Accommodation
- Employment
- Training
- Early Years and Education

Welfare Referrals

- Health and Wellbeing
- Mental Health
- Substance Use
- Financial
- Legal
- Domestic Violence
- Child Protection

Digital Platform

- Digital Platform
- Information
- Support
- Training
- Early Years and Education

ROYAL AIR FORCE
People & Families Support

Station Welfare Contacts

SSAFA – Leanne Wheeler

Office Location: 4 Viking Terrace

Tel: 07384 237987 (office hours only)

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

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

Office Location: Station Church

Tel: 01491 837766 Ext 6234

Email: michael.mccormick103@mod.gov.uk rachel.cook117@mod.gov.uk

Station RAF People and Families Support Contacts

Service Community Support Officer (SCSO): WO Philip Withey

Office Location: Community Centre

Tel: Duty Mobile - 07815 697370 (No Texts)

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