

SCiP Alliance Funders' Forum Action Plan 2025-26

March 2025

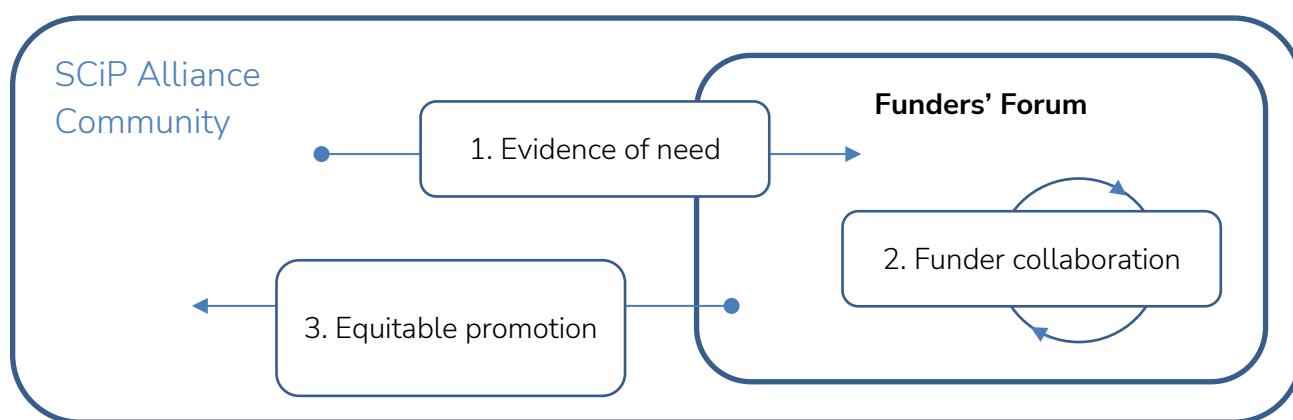
Context and Purpose

The SCiP Alliance Funders' Forum is a group of stakeholders, who provide funding either through grant-making or commissioning, to programmes dedicated to enhancing Service children's support.

The overarching aim is to improve the impact and efficiency of this support to Service children. It essentially exists to help funders do together what they cannot achieve alone, or what they can do better together than separately.

Through this Forum, funders seek to inform their funding practices based on the following priorities:

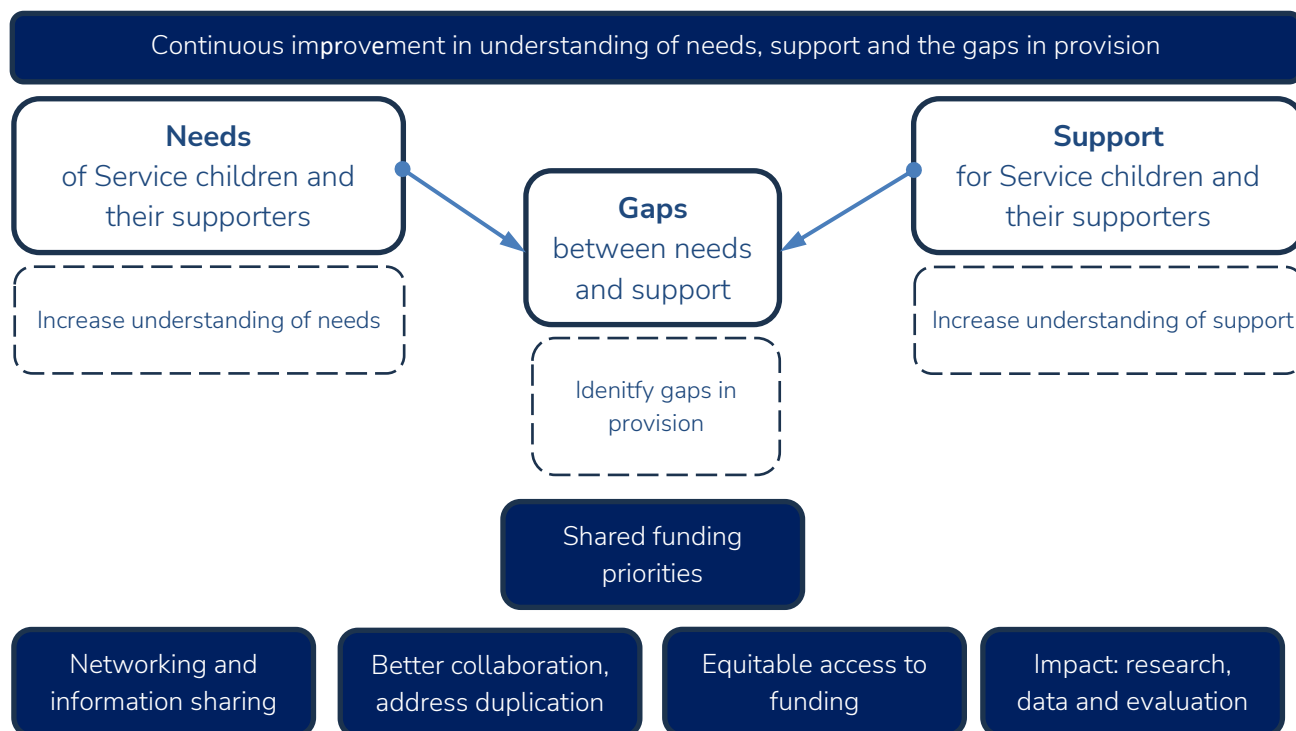
- **Evidence-based funding**
- **Enhanced collaboration**
- **Equitable access**



2025-26 Action Plan

Improving the impact of funding on Service children's lives and outcomes will be achieved by **improving the targeting and quality of support** in response to an **improving understanding of the scale and nature of the need**. Given that considerable work is already funded and that it includes examples of effective practice, the objectives here seek to identify and build on what is good.

The headline themes and objectives for 2025-26 for the Funders' Forum are as follows:



FIRST AIM: Understand the evolving needs of the community with current provisions and support

Objective 1:

Identify and agree optimal information sharing and enhanced networking mechanisms.

Achieved by sharing pertinent information at termly meetings through short presentations using common presentation template. Each member is requested to fill this in and share with the Chair so that a pack with all members' updates (and an overarching update capturing common themes) is created and shared ahead of each meeting.

The presentations should include a short update on:

- Current areas of need being targeted.
- Current funding activity, recognising different types of funding and anticipated impact.
- Developing and future priorities and intentions.

A glossary of working terms and definitions that the work of the Funders' Forum is guided by is included in Annex 1. This can be expanded and amended as needed with members' input.

Objective 2:

Identify and agree shared priorities and areas of need within the respective communities.

The Funders' Forum will develop its understanding of the principal challenges and areas of need within the respective communities and may agree shared priorities and plans to address these.

Shared understanding and awareness will be promoted via termly updates collated and disseminated. Members are also encouraged to share pertinent research briefings, case studies and insight reports, also to be included in the dissemination pack for each meeting.

SECOND AIM: Enable efficacy of collaboration and funding

Objective 3:

Identify and agree gaps in provision, ways of improving collaboration and means of addressing duplication.

Having achieved a collective understanding and awareness of challenges and need, individual and shared priorities amongst member organisations, the Forum may identify ways of developing complementary approaches and possible collaborative projects / joint funding applications. The aim is to provide more coherent tri-service funding support for Service children, responding to the best available evidence, avoiding duplication or potential overlaps.

Additionally, the Forum may explore the possibility of drawing on experience and expertise of organisations outside the military sector that provide support to children. This can be an opportunity for the Funders' Forum members to gain insight into practices and projects that have already been evaluated and explore the applicability of adapting these for Service children. This might also open pathways for wider collaboration amongst organisations and funders.

Objective 4:

Improve equitable access to funding.

Support funders to foster and enhance relationships with other SCiP Alliance partners and provide routes and suggestions of how best to promote available funding and support opportunities for Service children. This is to ensure wider awareness of existing opportunities and support that already exists and ways to access that, aiming to improve signposting and outreach efforts of member organisations.

Objective 5:

Improve capture of funding impact and quality of monitoring and evaluation.

The Forum will share experiences and existing methods of monitoring and evaluation (internal and external) and discuss ways to improve based on best practice, training and guidance. This aims to provide the quality and consistency of evaluation at programme, organisation and sector levels.

SECOND AIM – OUTPUTS:

- Agree a Theory of Change that can guide the work of the Funders' Forum. The overarching Theory of Change guiding the SCiP Alliance can be adopted and endorsed.
- Create map of available support specifically targeted to service children to be used as reference point by all members.
- Identify training needs of members and consider training support that can be organised.
- Annual networking event, linking funders with service deliverers.

Annex 1

Working Definitions

Armed Forces Charities: Charities that are established specifically to support past and present members of the armed forces and their families (the armed forces community) (DSC Report, 2023)

Service Child: A person whose parent, or carer, serves in the regular armed forces, or as a reservist, or has done at any point during the first 25 years of that person's life (SCiP Alliance)

Child of former serving personnel: Person(s) aged between 0-25, who has at least one parent, carer or legal guardian, served in the HM Regular, Reserve Armed Forces or Royal Fleet Auxiliary, for at least one day, within the last 25 years. This includes service children whose serving parent died whilst serving in the Armed Forces, within the last 25 years.

Service child with SEND/ASN/ALN: Person(s) aged between 0-25, considered to have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), due to a learning difficulty and/or disability and as a result requires additional health and education support. This additional support may be needed to address difficulties with reading or writing; their behaviour and socialising; their ability to concentrate; their physical ability. NB in England and Northern Ireland this is referred to as special educational needs (SEN), as additional learning needs (ALN) in Wales and as additional support needs (ASN) in Scotland.

Serving personnel: Person(s) currently serving in the Armed Forces and includes trained and untrained personnel.

Former serving personnel: Person(s) who has served in the HM Regular, Reserve Armed Forces or Royal Fleet Auxiliary, for at least one day (the Government's definition).