Service Children's Progression
ALLIANCE



THE SCIP ALLIANCE STRATEGY 2026-2030

Building the future of support for Service children together

The Service Children's Progression Alliance is led by the University of Winchester and supported by the MoD

Ministry of Defence

UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER



THE SCIP ALLIANCE 2026-2030 STRATEGY

We want every Service child to thrive. Achieving this requires people from across practice, research, policy, and funding to work together around a shared purpose.

The world is changing and the challenges ahead are growing. The needs of Service children and young people are becoming increasingly complex, while the capacity of the people and services supporting them is under increasing pressure. At the same time, there is an opportunity to work more effectively together, strengthen the use of evidence and ensure support reaches every child who needs it.

Our 2026–2030 strategy sets out how the SCiP Alliance will respond: by growing a stronger community, supporting continuous improvement, equipping people to take evidence-led action and strengthening the foundations that make this work possible.

OUR VISION

Thriving lives for Service children.

MISSION

Equip professionals for impact through evidence-led action and collaboration so that Service children thrive wherever they are.

The professionals supporting Service children every day are the ones who can make a real difference to their lives. Our role is to equip them with the confidence, capability and evidence to make that difference count and improve outcomes for Service children.

Evidence is core to our DNA. We seek out the best possible evidence, emphasising the importance of Service children's experiences and voices, make it practical and help people turn it into action that has a demonstrable impact on Service children's lives.

No single person, profession or sector has all the answers. As an Alliance, we bring people together where collaboration can achieve more. By connecting people, evidence and expertise, we help professionals do what they cannot do alone: solve problems, share what works and improve how they support Service children.

And we want that support to reach professionals wherever Service children are – across the UK and beyond.

VALUES

Making a difference

We value practical action that improves Service children's lives.

Inclusive community

We value collaboration that makes the most of our diverse community.

Rigorous evidence

We value robust research that drives real-world improvements.



ONE CENTRAL AIM

By 2030 the SCiP Alliance will be a thriving, fully representative community where collaboration, evidence-led action and continuous improvement are the norm.

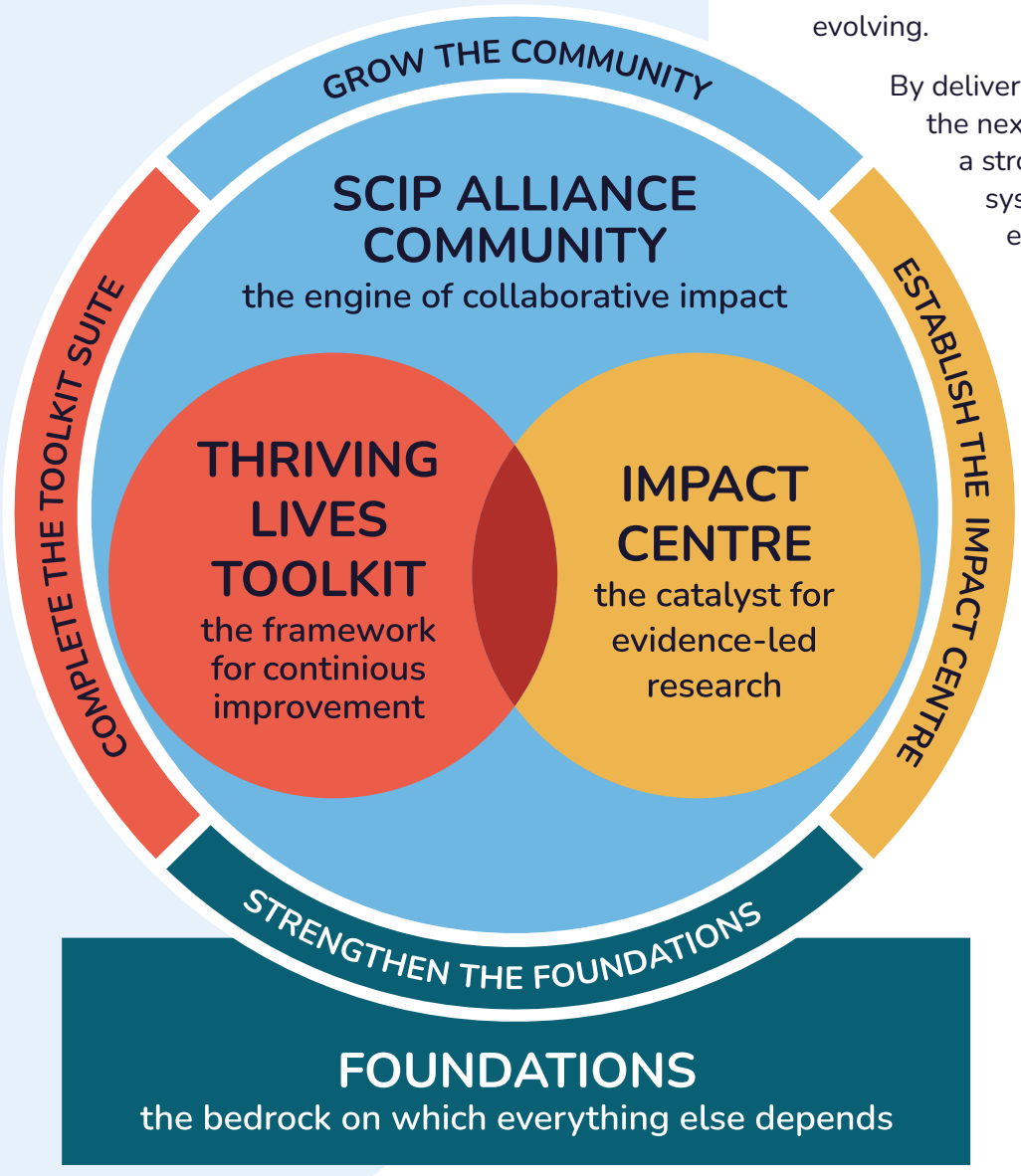
FOUR PRIORITIES

1. **Grow the SCiP Alliance Community**
   the engine of collaborative impact
2. **Complete the Thriving Lives Toolkit suite**
   the framework for continuous improvement
3. **Establish the SCiP Alliance Impact Centre**
   the catalyst for evidence-led action
4. **Strengthen the foundations**
   the bedrock on which everything else depends

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF SUPPORT

The SCiP Alliance's core purpose – helping professionals work together to improve outcomes for Service children – has not changed. But our ability to connect people, share evidence and support continuous improvement across the sectors and services that shape their lives is evolving.

By delivering these priorities over the next four years, we can create a stronger, more connected system of support that helps every Service child thrive.



FOUR PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1

GROW THE SCIP ALLIANCE COMMUNITY

the engine of collaborative impact



A strong community is one that people are proud to be part of – and where everyone has something to contribute. We will develop an engaging membership, with stronger ways to connect, collaborate and lead. We will develop our Hub Network, build a distinctive SCiP Alliance brand and share rigorous, useful insight that helps our community learn from one another and lead continuous improvement. By embedding meaningful Service child voice and participation throughout the Alliance, we can strengthen support in ways that reflect Service children's experiences and make a difference to their lives.

GOAL Establish a fully representative community of deeply engaged allies at every level

OBJECTIVES

1.1 Establish a distinctive and engaging membership identity
We want individual professionals and partner organisations to feel proud to be part of the SCiP Alliance and become ambassadors for our community.

1.2 Enhance the structures supporting community engagement and collaboration
We want members to connect with each other and opportunities easily.

1.3 Develop the Hub Network as a place-based Community of Practice
We want support for Service children to improve as regionally relevant challenges, successes, and learning are shared.

1.4 Establish a distinctive and compelling SCiP Alliance brand
We want our written, verbal and visual communications to be immediately recognisable and engaging for all stakeholders.

1.5 Be known for rigorous and useful insight and outputs
We want Ministers, MPs and senior leaders to routinely trust, engage with and seek SCiP Alliance insight to inform policy and system development.

1.6 Develop community-led continuous improvement
We want diverse community expertise and passion to drive continual improvement.

1.7 Embed meaningful and representative Service child voice and participation across the Alliance
We want children and young people to inform our work and feel the benefits.

PRIORITY 2

COMPLETE THE THRIVING LIVES TOOLKIT SUITE

the framework for continuous improvement

We make progress by learning what works and what we can do better. We will complete the Thriving Lives Toolkit suite from birth to 25 and develop a programme of training and resources to support continuous improvement. We will enhance Toolkit data, analysis and reporting, helping professionals understand their current provision, identify priorities and continually improve their practice. By supporting rigorous, evidence-led improvement across every education phase, we can strengthen the quality and consistency of support for Service children.

GOAL Establish a rigorous programme of continuous improvement support from birth to 25

OBJECTIVES

2.1 Establish the Thriving Lives Toolkit suite of frameworks from birth to 25
We want professionals in every education phase to engage in robust, systematic self-assessment.

2.2 Develop a programme of support for continuous improvement allied to the Thriving Lives Toolkit suite
We want professionals in every education phase to engage in sustained cycles of improvement using the framework, training and resources.

2.3 Enhance Thriving Lives Toolkit data, analysis and reporting
We want rigorous data and analysis to continually increase the impact of the Thriving Lives Toolkit.

PRIORITY 3

ESTABLISH THE SCIP ALLIANCE IMPACT CENTRE

the catalyst for evidence-led action

The more we understand, the more effectively we can act. We will establish the SCiP Alliance as a trusted source of evidence-led insight, launch a sustainable evaluation support service and deliver research addressing system-level priorities. This will help professionals and system leaders use evidence more effectively, understand their impact and develop solutions to shared challenges. By strengthening how evidence informs policy, funding and practice, we can improve how the wider system responds to the needs and experiences of Service children.

GOAL Establish the Impact Centre as the go-to resource for evidence-led action

OBJECTIVES

3.1 Establish the SCiP Alliance as a trusted, authoritative source of evidence-led insight for system leaders
We want national policy, funding and practice to be better aligned and more effective in improving outcomes for Service children.

3.2 Launch a sustainable evaluation support service
We want professionals, organisations, partnerships and programmes to embed increasingly rigorous evaluation practice.

3.3 Deliver system-level research projects
We want to work with others to develop evidence-led solutions to pan-sector, tri-Service, national priorities.



PRIORITY 4

STRENGTHEN THE FOUNDATIONS

the bedrock on which everything else depends



Our ambition has to be matched by our ability to deliver. We will grow the capacity and skills of our team, strengthen how we understand and demonstrate our impact, and increase our income and financial resilience. This will give the Alliance the people, insight and resources to support our community effectively and respond to its changing needs. By building a stronger, more sustainable Alliance, we can extend and improve the support that helps Service children thrive.

GOAL Grow our capacity to support the community

OBJECTIVES

4.1 Increase the team's capacity to deliver the strategy and support the community
We want enhanced scale and skills in the central team to enable the achievement of the strategy and grow the community over the long-term.

GOAL Enhance our insight and impact evidence

OBJECTIVES

4.2 Embed rigorous, systematic impact practice that drives useful insight and impact evidence
We want clear, credible evidence to inform our decisions and demonstrate the difference we make.

GOAL Increase our income and financial resilience

OBJECTIVES

4.3 Establish a fair and accessible, self-sustaining subscription model
We want enhanced support to be available to all so everyone can access additional help through a fair contribution model.

4.4 Increase multi-year core funding
We want stable, long-term funding partnerships to strengthen our resilience so we can focus on delivering our community support role.

4.5 Develop a suite of paid-for support services
We want high-quality, responsive support that meets identified needs and strengthens the Alliance's financial sustainability.

4.6 Develop project funding partnerships that advance shared priorities
We want to work with funders to tackle important challenges and continually strengthen our support and evidence.

OUR VALUES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

WE VALUE PRACTICAL ACTION THAT IMPROVES SERVICE CHILDREN'S LIVES.

We are resolutely focused on our vision of 'Thriving lives for Service children'. When we meet and make decisions, when we invest our time and resources, and when we act – from local practice to national policy – we do it for the real difference it will make in the lives of children and young people in the Armed Forces community.

Our work is at its best when Service children themselves experience meaningful improvements in their lives as a result.



INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

WE VALUE COLLABORATION THAT MAKES THE MOST OF OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY.

Countless partners contribute to our work in support of 'Thriving lives for Service children'. Only by working together in open and respectful collaboration can we achieve our ambitions for children and young people in Armed Forces families. We celebrate the distinctiveness and diversity of the Armed Forces community – both Service children and their supporters – and welcome all those who share our vision and values to add to the collective effort.

Our work is at its best when the full breadth of our community works in authentic partnership for and with Service children.

RIGOROUS EVIDENCE

WE VALUE ROBUST RESEARCH THAT DRIVES REAL-WORLD IMPROVEMENTS.

Service children are a hugely diverse group with complex lives. Understanding that diversity and complexity, developing support that responds effectively to it, and evaluating its impact requires rigorous research, high-quality data and analysis, and systematic thinking. We apply this rigour in all our work and deploy diverse and creative methods to foreground Service children's lived experience throughout.

Our work is at its best when Service children's complex lives are deeply understood and evidence drives continuous improvement.



Service Children's Progression ALLIANCE

Thriving Lives Toolkit

Service Children's Progression ALLIANCE IMPACT CENTRE

THRIVING LIVES FOR SERVICE CHILDREN

GET INVOLVED

FIND YOUR LOCAL HUB

USE THE THRIVING LIVES TOOLKIT

CONTACT THE IMPACT CENTRE TEAM



GET IN TOUCH

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