

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S LEARNING CODE OF PRACTICE

In response to the Scottish Government consultation 'Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice' which focused on their refreshed statutory guidance on Additional Support for Learning (ASL) in Scotland, the Naval Families Federation submitted evidence to highlight the unique challenges faced by Naval families.

What About Naval Families?

The guidance accurately reflects the legislative and policy landscape underpinning ASL in Scotland. Importantly it recognises the broad definition of additional support needs, including those arising from family circumstances. However, the guidance does not fully address policy commitments specific to military families and at present there is no reference to the Armed Forces Covenant and the duty on public bodies to give due regard, to avoid disadvantage caused by Service life.

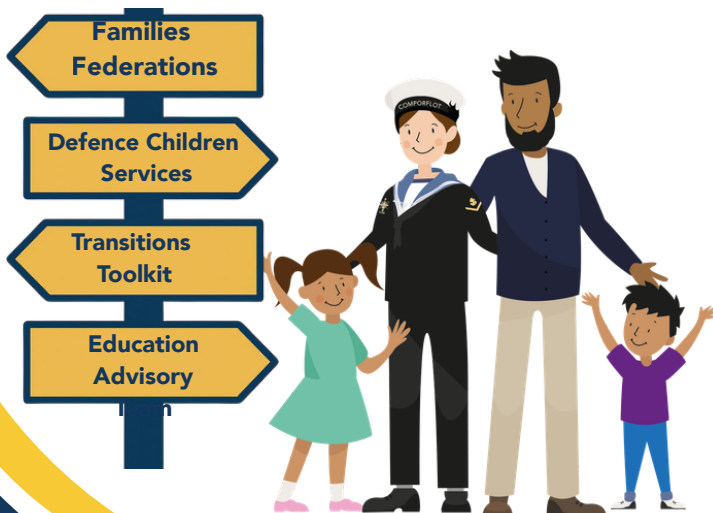


Improve Accessibility

The guidance is well organised and reader-friendly for its intended professional audience. However, we highlighted that accessibility may be more challenging for practitioners unfamiliar with Scottish terminology and systems, such as those supporting children from Naval families relocating from elsewhere in the UK. The inclusion of a comprehensive glossary of terms would further strengthen the document and broaden its accessibility.

Frequent Moves

Children from Naval families may move frequently across UK jurisdictions or overseas, often with little notice, leading to disrupted learning and inconsistent application of support. Greater emphasis is needed on recognising the cumulative effect of repeated moves, and on encouraging continuity in the use of existing assessments and support plans, rather than restarting processes after each relocation.



Signposting for Naval Families

The document includes robust signposting to general ASL support, including mediation, advocacy, and tribunal services. However, it lacks targeted signposting to specialist organisations that can offer support to Naval families. Adding references to the Service Families Federations, Ministry of Defence services such as Defence Children Services and the Education Advisory Team, and forthcoming transition resources, would significantly improve its practical value for practitioners working with this group.

Find out more about the NFF and how we can support you: nff.org.uk