How Can We Help?

- We can support service personnel, families and professionals with any questions, concerns or issues regarding a child or young persons attendance.
- We build good working relationships in order to improve attendance and attainment for all service children and young people.
- We offer advice and guidance around any social work issues, whether it be a concern for a vulnerable individual or whether themes and trends have been identified in specific areas.
- We support our DCS Schools and Settings with implementing positive attendance and early help processes, as well as provide wrap around support to schools and settings.

Key Facts

- The welfare and needs of the child, young person or vulnerable adult are at the forefront of our practice.
- Missing school for just a few days a year can damage pupils chances of gaining good qualifications and achieving their aspirations.
- All children, regardless of age, ability or special educational needs, are entitled to an appropriate and full-time education. However, there are many factors in the life of a child or that of their family that can affect school attendance.

Contact Us

For more specific information on our services, Contact: **RC-DCS-HQ-WSW@mod.gov.uk**

Useful Information

- JSP 834: Safeguarding
- JSP 913: Whole Service Domestic Abuse
- JSP 770: Tri-service Welfare Policy
- JSP 342: Education of service children
- DIN01-134: Elective Home Education
- Children Act 1989
- Education Act 2002
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

If you become aware of a vulnerable child, young person or adult, contact British Forces Social Work: **www.forcessocialwork.com**

Defence Children Services

Education Welfare Service

Guidance for professionals

Education Welfare Officer (EWO)

Every overseas command location has an allocated Education Welfare Officer. The team sits within the Specialist Support Services branch of Defence Children Services.

The service is Quad-service, supporting all Army, Navy, RAF and Civilian families overseas.

All EWOs are experienced practitioners with a range of knowledge and skills relating to education, social care, military and local authority education welfare.

We are a voluntary support service, available to support children and families where any attendance related issues or concerns are raised.

This support may be:

- Formal EWO intervention
- Informal EWO intervention
- Advice and guidance to families
- Advice and guidance to DCS Schools and Settings
- Advice and guidance to commands
- Signposting and sharing of resources

The Role of the Team

- To provide all DCS Schools and Settings with a name Education Welfare Officer who will support the school with identifying and addressing any issues, trends or concerns around attendance.

- To replicate where practicably possible the formal Education Welfare Process for children and young people who have been identified as Persistent Absentees (below 90% as outlined by Department of Education).

- To offer informal education welfare advice and guidance to all service personnel and entitled MOD civilians.

- To track and monitor all children who are Missing from Education in line with section 436A of the Education Act 1996.

- To provide a support service to Host Nation Schools where entitled MOD children and young people are attending if attendance issues are impacting on a child's education.

- To provide subject matter expertise (SME) to commands in all overseas spaces regarding education welfare, attendance and attainment issues

- To provide SME to commands in all overseas spaces regarding Statutory Children's Social Work intervention.

- Project Management of British Forces Social Work – Rest of World, in line with Army Commercial Contract Management.

- To act as Allegations Manager in role of the Defence Allegations Designated Officer (DADO) alongside the SAFE Team Leader where allegations of a person in position of trust against a child or young person has been made.