

## **Education Family Liaison Officer – March-July 2021**

During this transition phase of Covid 19 (Summer 2021) the EFLO will continue to work as closely as possible with Partnership schools, unit welfare staff and relevant agencies by offering the following:-

### **Emotional Support**

Family Links working 1:1 with parents (remote working via zoom).

### **Continuity of Education (Mobility)**

- Support children through transition, lowering their anxieties so that they settle more quickly into learning. Organising a Zoom meeting with a new school so that children can ask questions about their new school.
- Liaise with Army Welfare to ensure that children are in education when they leave a partnership school.
- Liaise with admissions re school places for service children, especially ensuring that siblings are placed together.
- Liaise with transport about bus places, taxis etc.

### **Belonging**

- Facilitate Service Groups (recorded or remote).

### **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

- Support Families with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) referrals around medical investigations into learning barriers or higher level mental health support.
- Writing supportive letters for families who have children with medical and/or educational needs and liaise with MOD agencies such as CEAS (Children's Education Advisory Service), AFF (Army Families Federation), DCYP (Directorate of Children and Young People) and Amey.
- Support Education, Health and Care applications and assessments (EHCPs) to ensure that children can access the most suitable school for their needs.

### **Community Support**

- Organise a stand and attend the Dalton Barracks Family Day (June) to raise the profile of the EFLO role.
- Support families in accessing school places for their children and arranging transport with Oxfordshire County Council.
- Maintain regular contact with Unit Welfare to enable working together for the best outcome for families. This includes attending regular meetings and deployment briefings.
- Arrange food bank deliveries.
- Make home visits (door step) and offer 1:1 parenting support.
- Lead and support EHA (Early Help Assessment) and TAF (Team around the Family) meetings, attend CP (Child Protection) and CIN (Children in Need) meetings with Social Care.
- Run a monthly Zoom coffee morning to maintain a presence in an ever changing community and develop relationships with parents with/without a nurturing programme mini video.
- Meeting families in the mornings at the bus stops to develop/maintain relationships with parents/carers (Mon-Thurs).  
Mon - Costcutter bus stop, Tues -Spey Road, Wed – opposite Cherry Tree Drive and  
Thurs – Costcutter Door stop conversations with parents/carers at their homes to drop off/collect items or welcome new families with a school prospectus.
- Attend Welfare Family Briefings via Zoom (organised by Welfare).

### **Awareness**

- Offers advice and training to schools in the partnership around how best to support service children e.g. Emotional Cycle of Deployment

## **Education Family Liaison Officer (EFLO) – Sept 2020-2021 (if application for funding is successful)**

**The following would continue to be part of the EFLO role once COVID 19 restrictions have been lifted.**

### **Emotional Support**

- The ELFO is a trained ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) therefore can offer targeted group or individual ELSA sessions with children to support their emotional or behavioural needs.
- Funding was secured from the MOD for the EFLO to be trained as a trauma mentor (Certificate in Therapeutic Mentoring) in 2020-2021. This will enable the EFLO to work directly with targeted children under the supervision of a Psychotherapist to aid the recovery of children who are showing symptoms of trauma.
- The EFLO facilitates Family Links Nurturing Programme groups at Dalton Barracks. This is a 10 week parenting programme that looks at family life in a thoughtful, fun way. It helps support positive behaviour in children and goes much further by looking at the emotional needs behind our children's behaviour. It also helps parents feel supported and listened to as well as giving them positive ideas for building happy family lives. To summarise, the programme benefits both children and parents by: improving mental well-being, improving behaviour, improving family relationships, building self-esteem, developing communication and social skills, teaching positive ways to resolve conflict and ultimately improves the child's long term educational and work prospects.

### **Belonging**

- Organise an annual CAMO DAY, service children throughout the Abingdon Partnership are invited to take part in educational, interactive activities organised and manned by 4 Regt.

### **Community Support**

- Run a monthly drop-in session at a coffee morning at the Barracks to maintain a presence in an ever changing community and develop relationships with parents.
- Attend Parents evenings which are held at the Barracks or Schools to encourage engagement.
- Practical support i.e. transport to meetings with other agencies etc.

### **Awareness**

- As the service children are spread widely throughout the schools in Abingdon the EFLO keeps the partnership school informed about issues such as deployment
- Champions the voice of service children by attending events such as the service children's conference and taking groups to anti-bullying days etc.

Il of the above, enables the barriers to be diminished and children to achieve their potential in their learning. The EFLO role is essential to maximise the educational learning of service children.