

**ANGUS COUNCIL
CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE 19 MAY 2015**

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SUPPORT FUND 2015

Background

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) Education Support Fund was set up in 2013 under the announcements made within the 'Armed Forces Covenant: Today and Tomorrow', recognising the effect that the exceptional mobility and deployment of our Armed Forces can have on the schools that support them and the children that attend them.

Angus Council was successful in its application in 2013 and received funds of £63,452.00 for the year 2014/15. This funding was used to deploy a primary teacher and a support for learning assistant to provide educational support for children from military families within the Arbroath cluster. These staff worked closely with cluster primary schools to plan appropriate learning activities to develop the children's skills in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. This enabled pupils to settle more effectively into their new school and to build good relationships with their peers. This support also helped these children to cope with the disruptions in their learning and friendships as a result of deployment.

Minor contract tutor hours were used by the secondary school to pay specialist teachers to provide specific support for learners in the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence. This provided flexible support for pupils who needed extra input to compensate for any missed learning or differences between the Scottish and English Education systems, in order to achieve national qualifications and go on to positive destinations.

A support pack was also developed to welcome new families and provide them with information about the area including the Scottish Education system and local school provision. This ensured that families were better informed about the support available for their child at an early stage which was very beneficial. Pupil welcome booklets to assist with transition were also developed.

From evaluations carried out, it is evident that the provision of this support has helped children of Service Families to develop their confidence and have a more positive attitude to learning. The additional support has allowed assessments to be carried out quickly and support to be targeted to address gaps in learning. Active learning activities have helped the children to forge friendships through collaborative and cooperative learning.

Current Situation

Angus Council has again been successful in its bid for MOD funding in 2015/16 and has been awarded a grant of £64,810.00 to cover the academic year up to 31 July 2016. This grant will be used to provide the following;

- £40,625.00 for 1 Primary Teacher
- £16,485.00 for 1 Support for Learning Assistant
- £ 4,000.00 for Educational Psychologist hours
- £ 2,000.00 towards minor contract hours
- £ 1,200.00 for ICT resources
- £ 500.00 for resource packs

The grant will be used to ensure and evidence a positive impact for service children within Angus schools.

For further information contact Audrey Osborne, Service Manager ASN at OsborneA@angus.gov.uk