



# RUTLAND'S SERVICE CHILDREN'S PROMISE

*In June 2022, Rutland County Council led a series of events for staff who work at the Council and in early education settings and schools. Children from families who have parents serving with the armed forces were also invited to a special session where they could give their feedback on their lives, especially linked to their time in school. The views that were gathered over the two days have been central to creating the Service Children's Promise. We will work together to ensure that we keep this promise and help Service children to achieve their very best in Rutland's early education settings and schools. The Service Children promise will also help Rutland in supporting the Armed Forces Covenant which is a national promise to the Armed Forces Community that they should be treated fairly and face no disadvantage when accessing services that are available to them such as education, health and housing.*

*Service children are typically proud of their serving parent's job and being part of the 'military family'. They do not tend to want 'special' treatment, but they want their lived experiences to be understood. At times of challenge, such as separation from a parent or military postings, children may feel particularly vulnerable and so need sensitive, tailored additional support. This may also be the case for their parents. This Promise outlines how we can all do our part in this so that any negative impact is minimised.*

**We would like:**

- To be treated as individuals recognising that each child has their own story.
- Understanding that sometimes we need a bit more support, with our teachers understanding our lives
- All of our friends to understand our lives better, with our friends from service families there to support us
- Safe spaces in early years or school setting where we can go to if we need to.
- Our schools and settings to celebrate the Armed Forces.
- More opportunities for our teachers to hear directly from military families.



**We want Rutland County Council staff to:**

- Listen to our voices and hear what we tell you
- Help our parents to find us a place in an early education setting or school, especially if we have a special need or disability
- Help the staff in our early years settings and schools to get even better at what they do
- Meet with other authorities to ensure Rutland continues to learn from what others are doing .
- Consider the impact on Service children when you think about what services you deliver and how they are delivered.
- Promote and celebrate the *Month of the Military Child*.
- Promote the effective use of Service Pupil Premium spend.
- Work with the early years and schools to make sure we do well in our education in Rutland.
- Make information easy to find..

**We want our early years setting and schools to:**

- Have teachers who understand our lives, think about this when planning their work and listen to what we have to say.
- Know who to speak to on our base to find out what is happening
- Know that our parents may not be around for birthdays, Christmas, etc. but may want to take us on holiday when they are home
- Celebrate the Month of the Military Child in April every year.
- Make sure our new school knows all about us
- Let us know how our schools use Service Pupil Premium and what difference it makes.