

**Section | 16**

Appendix D

*Edinburgh and Lothians Inter-agency*  
**Child Protection Procedures**

# Appendix D | Military Welfare Services

## Army Welfare Service (AWS)

The welfare of Army families whose children are considered by a social work service to be at risk is the responsibility of the Army Welfare Service (AWS). The AWS provides a confidential professional welfare support service to all Army personnel and their families through Army Welfare Workers (AWW).

Where a child of an Army family is subject of a Child Protection Referral

- Social Work (Children and Families) will liaise with the AWS Personal Support Team
- The team will be invited to send a representative to any Child Protection Case Conference concerning an Army child

Social Work services can also liaise on more general matters with the two Welfare Support Officers (WSO) who between them cover the whole of Scotland. They respond to the Divisional Welfare Support officer (DWSO) who works together with the Divisional Personal Support Officer (DPSO), a qualified social worker, in the Army Headquarters 2nd Division (see Appendix 'A' for contact details).

## Royal Marines

All Welfare matters within the Royal Marines are dealt with by the Royal Marine Welfare Service (RMWS) which is now formally aligned with the Naval Personal and Family Service (NPFS). This is a non-statutory agency which provides a confidential and professional service to all Royal Marine personnel and their families.

Where a child of a Royal Marine family is subject of a Child Protection Referral

- Social Work (Children and Families Services) will liaise with the Royal Marine Welfare Service
- The team will be invited to send a representative to any Child Protection Case Conference concerning a Royal Marine child

The Royal Marine Welfare Service will negotiate service action on behalf of families.

In the event that no-one is available at Condor within the Welfare Team, then contact should be made with the main NPFS office in Scotland of which the address is appended.

## Royal Air Force

The Royal Air Force (RAF) is supported by an independent Social Work Service in the name of SSAFA Forces Help (The Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association). Most Stations have trained Personal & Family Support Workers but small Stations are still offered a service from a local designated team. The Officer Commanding Personnel Management Squadron (OC PMS) is the main focus within the RAF system in relation to the welfare of families on their Station.

Where a child of a Royal Air Force family is subject of a Child Protection Referral

- Social Work (Children and Families Services) will liaise with the serviceman/woman's unit if known or the nearest RAF unit by contacting the OC PMS or SSAFA Forces Help
- The team will be invited to send a representative to any Child Protection Case Conference concerning a Royal Marine child

Every RAF unit has an officer appointed to this duty and he/she will be familiar with Child Protection Procedures.

For informal discussion contact SSAFA Forces Help (see Appendix 'A' for contact details) – RAF (UK) Social Work Service, Social Work Team manager on (01334) 839 471 Ext. 7444. Or Ext. 7656



## Service families going or returning from overseas

Where any of the Military Welfare Agencies are aware of Child Protection issues within a family who are being considered for overseas service, this will be highlighted during the screening process and action taken to prevent the family's move before Child Protection issues have been resolved.

It is essential that the local authority Social Work Service exchange information about agencies involvement with a service family to ensure that no child named on a UK Child Protection Register can be taken abroad and to make sure that parental support is not removed at a critical time.

Therefore where a services child's name is placed on the Edinburgh and Lothians Child Protection Register.

- The Chair of the Case Conference will ensure that details are forwarded to the appropriate service families support agency

SSAFA Forces Help provides a statutory Social Work Service and Primary Health Care service for families of all services on overseas stations.

Where there is a Child Protection plan in this country for a child in a service family who are to move overseas.

- The Case Coordinator will notify SSAFA Forces Help (see Appendix 'A' for contact details)

This should be done in writing with full documentation, case summary, case conference notes, etc (see Appendix 'A' for contact details)

This information is forwarded to the relevant SSAFA Forces Help Social Worker overseas in order that:

- a. The case may be entered on the overseas British Forces Child Protection Register
  - b. The practitioners at the overseas base can be alerted and a case conference arranged; and appropriate support and supervision are provided to the family
- Where there is a statutory involvement (e.g. a supervision requirement), SSAFA Forces Help will provide regular reports to the local authority concerned
  - When a service family with a child in need of protection returns to the UK, SSAFA Forces Help will contact the Social Work (Children and Families Services) in the local authority area in which they will reside ensuring that full documentation is provided to assist in the management of the case
  - Social Work (Children and Families Services) will convene Inter-agency Referral Discussions regarding the child(ren)

## Emergency action regarding service families overseas

When it appears that a child is in urgent need of protection an officer having jurisdiction in relation to the child may order the child to be removed to and detained in a place of safety. If the officer makes an order to transfer the child to the United Kingdom so that care of the child can become the responsibility of the relevant local authority all necessary action will be arranged and agreed beforehand between the responsible agencies concerned.

New arrangements for dealing with the emergency protection of children of service families abroad were introduced in the Armed Forces Act 1991. These provide for the officer having jurisdiction in relation to a child to make an order to remove the child or keep him or her in accommodation provided by or on behalf of the person who applied for the order.

