

PE1603/M

Stirling Council Letter of 12 October 2016

I am writing in response to your letter to Stewart Carruth requesting Stirling Council's views relating to armed forces visits to our schools.

In Stirling, visits to educational establishments by armed forces are at the discretion of individual school leadership. The local authority does not collect information regarding the number, location, purpose or content of such visits.

To support this response, schools and nurseries were asked to identify the frequency and purpose of all armed forces involvement with pupils and any emerging areas of concern as well as their opinion on the requirement for national guidance.

From information gathered from primary and early years establishments, over 60% have had no such visits during the last five years. The remaining have collaborated with armed forces to support topic work, lead a remembrance service and support an obstacle course fund raising event. Secondary schools have had more frequent visits which have included input to general career events or assemblies to which other organisations and bodies have also been invited. Occasionally pupils have participated in specific work experience opportunities, such as the use of armed forces to support leadership training for S6 students.

Parental consent is always requested if young people are to participate in work experience, away days or leadership training but not specifically for inclusion of armed forces at school events when it is positioned alongside other providers.

In summary, Stirling Council does not believe national guidance is required at this time. Locally, visits by armed forces to schools are infrequent, army career information available to students is well balanced alongside many other employment or training options and there are no emerging concerns from staff, students or their families. Existing procedures for parental consent ensure families are informed of specific armed forces activity and have the opportunity to raise concern or withdraw permission.

I hope this response provides the information you require.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Kelman

Chief Education Officer