



Using Armed Services Providers

Some Armed Services offer opportunities for young people to take part in activities, including residentials. These can have a number of benefits:

- They may be subsidised and hence cheaper than equivalent provision elsewhere.
- Some young people may find them exciting and motivating, and may respond well to the ethos of the Armed Services.
- They may be an opportunity for young people who are interested in joining the Armed Services to consider this option.

However, they can also have some disadvantages and risks:

- Armed Service providers are exempt from some processes that are standard elsewhere and that give assurance about providers, such as AALA Licensing.
- Some Armed Services programmes aimed at school pupils do not provide for the inclusion of school staff. This means that the school may have to totally hand over their duty of care and responsibility for supervision, and may not be in a position to monitor or intervene.
- The ethos of the Armed Services can mean that young people can feel compelled into taking part in an activity and unable to express concerns or choice.
- As there is no central military control or oversight of these programmes the quality of provision is dependent on the individual unit or military command delivering the activities.

When booking courses with Armed Service providers, establishments should be clear about:

- Which military unit or command is responsible for the activity and the name of the officer or NCO in charge.
- How long they have been running this programme.
- What the military's aims are.
- How their expectations of standard practice, roles and responsibilities etc. may differ from the expectations of the provider and ensure that any concerns are addressed.

It is essential that all school staff involved, **as well as parents/guardians**, are aware of what is involved before agreeing to proceed.

