



Swindon SEND Families Voice Autumn Newsletter 2018

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We have now been going for over 6 months and are really finding our feet! We have attended 49 meetings so far and have made several challenges where we felt services needed improving and where families have brought their frustrations to us we have addressed them with Swindon Borough Council or the CCG (Health Services). We have focussed on getting feedback from parents and carers, and building good relationships across the board, not just within SBC but also with the health services and other support groups and charities – particularly Coast (ASD support group) and STEP (Swindon Ten to Eighteen Project). In fact we like STEP so much we have moved in with them! We look forward to working more closely in the near future with other local groups.



Working with Local Businesses

We love to work with local businesses that support families with SEND children and young people, so we were delighted to host 2 workshops over the summer holidays with Revolution Performing Arts and Positive Essentials (Mindfulness and Relaxation). We received lots of positive feedback from the attendees. See below for details of the events we are holding over Autumn.



Administrator Job

Our forum is growing, which is fantastic, but this means we're swamped with work and our capacity has reached its limit! So we are looking for a part-time/term-time Administrator for 5 hours a week. If you are interested in applying for this position please email us at swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com for an application form and job description. We will also be sharing the details on our Facebook page and online.





Re-Designing the ASD Pathway

As you may have heard there is a big project taking place about 'Re-designing the ASD Pathway'. We have received this update from Sally Smith at the CCG (Health Services):

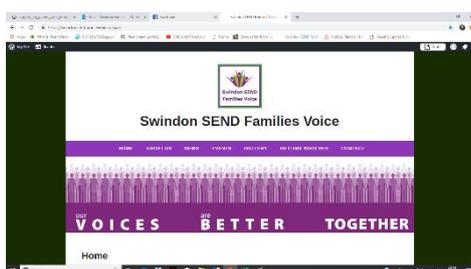
"A review of Children's Services in Swindon identified significant increases in the identification of children and young people with SEND relating to autism and the number of children being referred to the Consultant-led Paediatric ASD Assessment Clinic. This has resulted in an impact on waiting times for clinic appointments and the Paediatric Therapy Services, e.g. Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy. These increases have prompted the Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to look at re-designing the ASD Pathway for Children and Young People.

Three workshop/listening events were held in June and July and these were well attended by stakeholders and parents/carers. The feedback received at these events will help us to develop the pathway. Following on from these events, a project group, consisting of professional leads and parent/carers has been formed. A pathway mapping exercise took place at this group's first meeting in July. This involved us discussing how a child is referred through the system and highlighted some positive and negative aspects of the child's journey.

A subsequent project group meeting has been arranged for October where we will receive a presentation from Maria Bourbon, Acting Clinical Team Manager of Oxfordshire CAMHS. Oxfordshire Health NHS Foundation Trust have developed a Neural Developmental Conditions Pathway and the project group are keen to see how this could work in Swindon."

Early Years SEND Forum

We have been invited to speak at the Early Years SEND Forum in November. This is exciting for us because it gives us the opportunity to talk to another group of service providers that we have not spoken to yet. What has been your experience of Early Years care for your children with SEND in Swindon? Please do contact us to let us know.



New Website

Our new website is up and running please check it out for the latest news, events and information.

www.swindonsendfamiliesvoice.org

“Our Voices are Stronger Together”



Thank you as always for those that have contributed either in person, through our surveys, by completing our polls, on Facebook and emails to our requests for information and feedback. It is through you that we are able to present to the people that are making the decisions what we want and don't want. So please do keep it coming and spread the word!

Events coming up...

Friday 2nd November

FREE Craft and Sensory Play

10.00-11.00 and 11.30-12.30

Savernake Social Hall, SN1 3LZ



Wednesday 28th November
FREE Challenging Behaviour

Workshop

7.30 – 9.30pm

Park North, SN3 2LG

We Need You!

Would you like to be one of our Parent Representatives? We can offer many different opportunities to suit different skills. Would you like to join us at council and health services meetings, or attend events with us to share what we are doing and support local families, or be part of organising and running our events? If you think you would like to join us and would like further information please don't hesitate to contact us for an informal chat. You can do as little or as much as you like! We would love to hear from you. Email us at swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com or find us on [Facebook](#) and send us a message.



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