



We attended 66 Meetings in November,

Meetings we attended included:

Home Education Meeting

Participation Network

SENCO Champions

Carer's Right Day



A Warm Welcome

We know all too well that Christmas & festivities can cause our SEND children a considerable amount of uncertainty & as a result often a lot of extra work & worry for parents & carers. We hope that you can find time to enjoy some of the little things like a good mince pie and hot chocolate with all the trimmings! And try to remember although there may need to be differences and adjustments made which go against tradition, it's ok! New traditions are made everyday.

Send Families Voice Team

You said.....We did

You told us you wanted us to visit your Children's schools to help spread awareness of SEND and share information about our projects, events and other local SEND resources and services.

We attended 8 School SEND Coffee Mornings in November. Reaching out to a total of 35 parents!

We also attended other community venues and groups to reach more parents, and so that our focus is never solely on Education settings.

November saw us attend a Coffee Morning with The Down Syndrome Society where we met with 12 families, A Managing Challenging Behaviour Workshop saw us reach 2 families and Carers Rights Day enabled us to speak with 19 parent carers.



You said that the School Coffee mornings weren't always accessible to all. You told us that sometimes it is difficult to make mornings if you work and that hosting Coffee Mornings in School can miss out families that don't access formal educational settings. You also said that sometimes you have to bring younger or home educated children along with you.

In response to this we held several alternative meet ups in November to help make accessing our support easier for all SEND families.

Branches in November allowed us to reach 10 families. This is our support group that is held as alternate evening and day time sessions to help those who may have different work patterns.

Our most recent Breakfast catch up saw us connect with 15 parents and 3 Children, our Stay and Play session was a big hit with 12 parents and 16 children attending. All these meet ups allow and enable parents to bring their children or young person along with them (as does Branches support group).



The Annual SEND Survey 2023

Do you want a chance to have your say about SEND Services over the past year? Then this survey is applicable to you, whether you have a child on SEN Support or with an EHCP, with or without a diagnosis. If you have multiple children with SEND you can complete individual surveys for each child and if your young person is 13+ they can complete one with questions that are suitable for them.



SEND Self-Evaluation Survey

Swindon Borough Council want your lived experiences of navigating the world of SEND. You are invited to respond to their self evaluation survey; and provide your honest feedback on how the Local Area as a whole is currently performing.

When answering the questions, please consider your experiences with all areas of SEND, not just the Local Authority. You can access the survey through the link below.

All responses will be collected and used to form a Local Area view, & the framework will be published on the Swindon Local Offer for children, young people & their families, professionals and key stakeholders to read.

Please note that this survey will close on Friday 22nd December at 4pm.

If you have any questions about this, please get in touch with the team at: SENDInclusion@swindon.gov.uk



SBC SEND Families News Splash

Click to download the November 2023 edition of SEND Families News Splash.

Click here

You can subscribe to get future editions of this newsletter by subscribing to the SBC mailing list.

Join here





Useful Contacts

Aiming High

aiminghigh@swindon.gov.uk

(01793) 464 080

Community Paediatricians

gwh.communitypaeds@nhs.net

CAMHS and TAMHS Swindon

tamhs@swindon.gov.uk
Admin@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

01865 903 422 CAMHS
(01793) 463 177 TAMHS
0800 023 21 33 Out of Hours

SIAS- The SEND information, advice & support service.

SIAS@swindon.gov.uk

(01793) 466 515

The SEND Team- SBC

SENDSERVICE@swindon.gov.uk

(01793) 464 641



Swindon SEND Families Voice

Spotlight on The Local Offer

Did you know the local offer has its own YouTube page!?

Where you can currently find the latest videos including a video about the Traded offer for the advisory teachers for cognition and learning. So go check it out, watch, like and subscribe!



[The Local Offer YouTube](#)



Parent Voices

Jenny Watts

What makes you smile most about your child with SEND?

My son makes me smile the most when he overcomes tricky situations for example he found getting his face wet very difficult due to sensory processing difficulties and after a few weeks of swimming he now loves to splash and put his head in the water.



How have Swindon Families Voice supported you and your family?

SEND families voice has signposted me to events and supports families to connect.

What advice would you give to other parents on their SEND journey?

The advice I would give is to connect with other SEND parents. Connection is the key. SEND parents are a great support and full of knowledge. I also help run a Facebook group called SEND families with families, you can find out more by clicking the link and follow us for more details about our meet ups and events.

[SEND families with families](#)



<https://www.facebook.com/SwindonSENDfamiliesvoice>



[@Swindonsendfamilies](#)



SEND EVENTS



MY Future

An event for young people aged 14 plus with additional needs, and their parent / carers.

"Becoming an adult can be confusing!!!"

Thursday
1st February
2024
10am to 4pm
@ New College
Swindon,
North Star
Campus

Come along and find out what's available to help young people get ready for adult life.

For more information email: myfutureevent@swindon.gov.uk
or text / call 07989 387810

Previously known as:
The Transitions Roadshow

With Amina and Hannah!

SEND STAY & PLAY SUPPORT GROUP

For children aged 0-5 years with SEND
FREE to attend!

Email: sendstayandplay.ssfv@outlook.com to book a place

When: Thursday 7th December; 10:00 - 12:00
Where: The Meadow, Leigh Road, Swindon, SN2 5DE
Please note parents and carers are responsible for their children whilst attending

COFFEE MORNING

Are you a parent or carer of a child with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities?

Please come along to meet the Swindon SEND Families Voice team to find out what we do!

Location: Honey Bees - Eldene Primary
Date: 12th December 2023
Time: 10.00am - 11.15am

SIAS drop in sessions

The SEND information, advice and support service have drop-in sessions every other week. Pop in to the Central Library if you have any questions about SEND, want to meet the team or just prefer to talk face to face!

1st November
15th November
29th November
13th December

Central Library
SN1 1QG
12.30-4.30PM

With Amina and Hannah!

SEND STAY & PLAY SUPPORT GROUP

For children aged 0-5 years with SEND
FREE to attend!

Email: sendstayandplay.ssfv@outlook.com to book a place

When: Thursday 21st December; 10:00 - 12:00
Where: The Meadow, Leigh Road, Swindon, SN2 5DE
Please note parents and carers are responsible for their children whilst attending

Christmas



SEND SUPPORT



BRANCHES SUPPORT GROUP EVERYONE WELCOME



Tel: 07486 873405
Email: swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com

BRANCHES is a support group open to all parents and carers of children and young people with any Special Educational Need or Disability, aged 0-25 years

When?
Thursday 14th December

Where?
Pinetrees Community Centre, The Circle, Swindon. SN2 1RF

Time?
7PM-8.30PM

Working Together
Strengthening Support
Reaching Out

SSFV would like to invite you to:
An informal Christmas Party for Parents/Carers

Swindon SEND Families Voice

BRANCHES is a free support group, however voluntary donations for refreshments are welcomed

On-Demand Courses

Jodie Smitten
BSc Hons Psy, PGCert, MA Autism, MBPS

- 30 day Access
- Downloadable slides
- Developed by a ND parent with both lived & professional experience knowledge
- Priced to be accessible

Topics covered include: autistic burnout, challenging distress behaviour, school attendance, mental health, understanding emotions.

Exclusive December Gift
25%
Discount Code use:
ssfvxmas

***Available on all courses except masking.*

The Kelly Foundation
LISTEN UNDERSTAND SUPPORT

EATING DISORDER FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Last Tuesday of Every Month, 6.30-7.30pm
Starting Tuesday 28th November 2023
Pinetrees Community Centre, Pinehurst, Swindon SN2 1QR

No two families will have the same experiences with eating disorders, but we are here to listen, understand and support families to develop resilience and become strong through the process.

We believe in families. We believe in recovery. We believe talking together is power and good support saves lives.
Welcome to our Family Support Group.

Please contact Jane for more information or to register your interest
Email - jane@4kelly.org
Tel - 01793 200710

SEND Families with families

Connected Supported Togetherness

Welcome to SEND families with Families

We are a small group of parents that meet to plan small events in the half terms where SEND families can meet and connect.

We would love to connect with as many families as possible, so if you feel like you could benefit from SEND news, support, advice and connection with other families then please scan the QR code below to join our Facebook group and find out more about what we're aiming to achieve.



Be U SWINDON

www.beuswindon.co.uk
beu.swindon@nhs.net
01793 781 484

SWINDON Carers Centre

Parent Carer Coffee Mornings

Need a break and a chat?

Come and meet our Parent Carer Support Practitioners, and other Parent Carers at The Sun Inn, Coate Water, SN3 6AA.

Dates for your diary:
Wednesday 11th October
Wednesday 8th November
Wednesday 13th December
Wednesday 10th January
Wednesday 14th February
Wednesday 13th March

Time: 9.30am - 11.00am






SEND ACTIVITIES



STFC have 3 Disability sessions on a Wednesday evening:

- 5-6pm - Down Syndrome Active
- 6-7pm - U16 Pan Disability
- 7-8pm - 16+ Learning Disability Team

Venu: The Nigel Eady Training Centre

For more information regarding these sessions, and to register your interest please click the link. If there are any questions about our disability provision please email brad@stfcfoundation.com

[Click here](#)



www.STFCfoundation.com

SENSORY SESSION

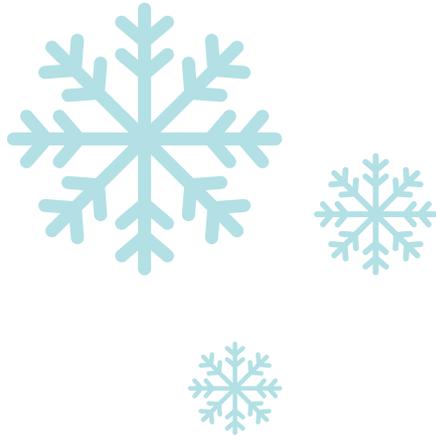
Last Thursday of Every Month at 4:15pm

No need to book
Discount applied to the whole family



Rugrats and Half Pints

Cirencester



DIVERSE DISCO

FOR ANYONE 16+ WITH DISABILITIES
INCLUSIVE & ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER
AT TREE NIGHT CLUB

UNDER 18'S 17:45PM - 18:45 <small>CARERS WELCOME</small>	OVER 18'S 19:00 TILL 20:30 <small>CARERS WELCOME</small>
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£6 CARERS GO FREE

Singability

A fun inclusive music/singing class for children aged 5-14 with a severe or profound disability to attend alongside their parent/carer

TERM 3
STARTING MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

WHERE: Redhouse Community Centre, SN25 2GY

WHEN: Every Monday (Term Time)

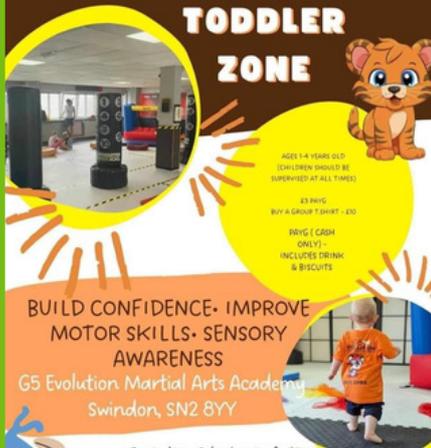
TIME: 18.00-18.30

COST: £3

To find out more about the set up of the class please email singabilitygroup@gmail.com

Wednesdays 11.15AM-12.30PM

TIGER CUBS TODDLER ZONE



AGES 1-4 YEARS OLD
(CHILDREN SHOULD BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES)

£3.95
BUY A GROUP TSHIRT - £50

PLAY (1 HOUR ONLY) - INCLUDES DRINK & BISCUITS

BUILD CONFIDENCE • IMPROVE MOTOR SKILLS • SENSORY AWARENESS

G5 Evolution Martial Arts Academy
Swindon, SN2 8YY

Free Parking - Baby changing facilities

Upcoming SEN Sessions

- 28th November
- Quiet Hour: Dec 17th 10am

High Score SEN Sessions

Our SEN Sessions run once a month with a reduced capacity to ensure that High Score really is "Free-Play fun for Everyone!". Our machine volumes are turned down whilst still allowing everyone to have a great gaming experience. Carers are welcome to attend and join in with the fun!

"SENSORY SANTA'S GROTTTO" AT STUDLEY GRANGE!

WE ARE HOLDING TWO SPECIAL EVENTS FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

DECEMBER 7TH & DECEMBER 14TH

INCLUDED: 1 TO 1 TIME WITH SANTA & HIS ELF EXPLORING THE GROTTTO
FOOD & DRINK
A GIFT FROM SANTA
A GOODY BAG

CHILD - £13.95
ADULT - £8.95

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BOOKINGS PLEASE SEE THE CHRISTMAS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE.

SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN FROM 2-12 YEARS OF AGE

WWW.STUDLEYGRANGE.CO.UK
Studley Grange





SEND ACTIVITIES



Next
SEN ONLY session at Little Centurions is coming up!

This is a 2-hour session taking place on the FIRST Wednesday of EVERY month from 3.30pm – 5.30pm.

Wednesday 6th December.

Parents and Carers accompanying children are FREE, with a 2-hour session costing £5.95 for Under 4's and £7.95 for ages 4 and above.

You can book online, click anywhere on this poster to go direct to the website

#LittleCenturions #SENsession #Cirencester

1st Wednesday of every month
3:30pm-5:30pm

CHEER FOR FUN

SWINDON LIGHTNING CHEERLEADING CLUB

ACCESSIBLE FOR
DISABILITIES AND
ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Saturdays
10:15-11:15AM

Freedog

SEND SESSIONS

Open Bounce SEND Sessions at Freedog:

SEND individuals and their families
Every Sunday evening from
16:45-18:00

This session has reduced noise and a reduced check in and briefing time of 15 minutes.

One Carer free with each SEND child.

[Click here to book](#)

£8
If booked at least 24 hours in advance



ACTIVE & INCLUSIVE SWINDON

Check out Active Inclusive on Facebook for update info

Please Note:
Link Centre Closure will affect Swim, Bounce and Ice Skating so please check with the Link Centre before attending.

[Click here for more info](#)

Mondays: Wheels 4 All Cycling, LD Football (16+), SALTO! Dance (16+)

Tuesdays: Disability Ice Skating, Inclusive Bounce Trampoline, Inclusive Swim (16+)

Wednesdays: Yoga, Inclusive Tennis (All ages), Pan Disability Football, Down Syndrome Football

Thursdays: Wheels 4 All Cycling, Inclusive Tennis (16+), Pilates, Inclusive Bounce Trampoline, Table Tennis, Disability Cricket (12-25)

Fridays: Football (Mental Health 16+), Disability Boxing Session, Wheelchair Rugby (9+), Vixens Netball (16+), Wheelchair Basketball (8+)

Saturdays: Indoor Bowls (All ages)

6-7PM EVERY WEDNESDAY

ADDITIONAL NEEDS & NEURODIVERSITY YOUTH GROUP!

AT MEADOWCROFT COMMUNITY CENTRE
SN2 7JX

This group is free to attend for those aged 10-25!

You can enjoy games and exciting activities within a safe space, where you can chat to someone you can trust!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
CHERRY RILEY AT:
CHERRY.RILEY@STRATTONSTMARGARET.GOV.UK
01793 823761