

# SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 260 MONDAY 05 JANUARY 2026

## 2026 SEND Survey

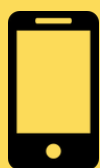
The SEND Survey 2026 opens on 5/1/26, and closes on 27/3/26. To complete the survey [click here](#)

Please take the time to complete the survey and let us know your thoughts and opinions about the strategic direction for services for children and young people with SEND for the next 2 years.

Survey of SEND Services 2026



## Contact the SEND Service



Call the SEND Service on 01793 464641  
Lines are open Monday to Thursday  
8am-5pm and 8am-4.30pm on Friday.



Alternatively, you can email  
[SENDSERVICE@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:SENDSERVICE@swindon.gov.uk)



For more information, please visit the  
Meet the SEND Service page on the  
Local Offer -

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20208/what\\_is\\_the\\_local\\_offer/1462/meet\\_the\\_send\\_service](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20208/what_is_the_local_offer/1462/meet_the_send_service)

## Events:

**PARTNERSHIPS FOR INCLUSION OF NEURODIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS**  
**COMMUNITY EVENT**

Information Session with Kirk Anderson  
We are delighted to be hosting an online event with Kirk Anderson, who will be running a session on Mental Health in Neurodivergent Children.

**WHEN?**  
Wednesday 14th January

**WHERE?**  
Microsoft Teams

**TIME?**  
6.30pm-8pm

**Who is this event for?**  
- Parents of children with diagnosed or undiagnosed conditions, it is aimed at supporting parents/carers and how they can help their neurodivergent children at home  
- Professionals or volunteers who work with children or young people with SEND.

**In attendance:**  
Kirk Anderson is a Learning Disability Nurse with 30 years' experience of working with autistic young people and those with a learning disability. He is currently the Specialist Keyworker in the ICB's Keyworker service, working with autistic young people and those with a learning disability, up to the age of 25, who are at risk of a mental health admission.

**Meeting information:**  
Meeting ID: 934 916 070 242 3  
Passcode: n2ox27

### Kirk Anderson - Mental Health in Neurodivergent Children.

Swindon SEND Families voice are running a series of community events from now until February covering a wide range of topics.

The next session is:

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 6:30-8pm. The meeting will be held on Microsoft teams.

**Meeting ID:** 934 916 070 242 3  
**Passcode:** n2ox27

## Neurocircle

Held on the third Friday of every month.

For friends, family and carers of neurodiverse people.

The next session is a Winter Warmer Coffee and Cake Drop in and is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of December 9:30 - 11:30 am The Junction, Town hall.

To sign click the link below:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/swindon-and-gloucestershire-mind-autism-service-111015570041>

**mind Swindon and Gloucestershire**

**Neurocircle**

Third Friday of every month during term-time  
9:30 - 11:30am  
In person: The Junction, Town Hall | Online: Teams

Neurocircle is a space for the friends, family, and carers of neurodiverse people to learn more about neurodiversity. It is an opportunity to expand your understanding of neurodiversity and talk to other people who have a neurodiverse loved one.

The sessions will vary from month to month, including guest speakers and open discussions. All are welcome to drop-in. Guest speaker sessions will require you to register via Eventbrite - you can book your spot by scanning the QR code on the right.

**Upcoming Sessions:**

	Next month	December
<b>Date</b>	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January
<b>Topic</b>	Winter Warmer Drop in with Tea and Cake	New Year Drop in

For more information: [autism@mind.org.uk](mailto:autism@mind.org.uk)

## Trauma Informed Practice Training Focus Group

For anyone who took part in Trauma Informed Practice Training we'd love to hear from you about any changes you've observed for students, staff, policies or school culture. Please join us for a short focus group taking place in January Sessions 2026.

This is an important opportunity for you to share your thoughts on the impact of the programme, what could be improved, and where future learning and development opportunities would be helpful. To take part please click [HERE](#)



Check out our useful bite-sized videos on the **Local Offer YouTube channel**.

<https://www.youtube.com/@swindonlocaloffer5364>  
Subscribe and give your feedback.

## Local Offer Service Directory Updates

We have recently updated and added to the Local Offer website Service Directory [SEND service directory](#).| [Swindon Borough Council](#) including new sections bringing together service providers of:

- Alternative provision [Alternative provision](#) | [Swindon Borough Council](#),
- Short breaks provision [Short breaks and respite for carers](#) | [Swindon Borough Council](#),
- Holiday Activities and Food Providers (HAF) [Holiday Activities and Food providers \(HAF\)](#) | [Swindon Borough Council](#)
- Early Intervention Providers [Early intervention](#) | [Swindon Borough Council](#)

There are different ways to search the Local Offer website Service Directory, including:

Using the Service Directory search bar, within the Service Directory area [SEND service directory](#).| [Swindon Borough Council](#)

Searching by directory category within the Service Directory area, eg: Alternative Provision [Alternative provision](#) | [Swindon Borough Council](#), and then finding the listing from the A-Z in that directory

Please do continue to let us know of any local services for children, young people and families with SEND that may not yet be on the Local Offer website Service Directory at [localoffer@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@swindon.gov.uk).

## Swindon Carers update

From 1 January 2026, services for Swindon carers will be run by Cornwall Rural Community Charity (CRCC). Contact details can be found within the [Local Offer Service Directory SEND Local Offer - Swindon Carers Together \(run by Cornwall Rural Community Charity\)](#).| [Swindon Borough Council](#).

We would take this opportunity to thank Swindon Carers Centre for all the work they have previously done serving carers in Swindon.

## Children's Commission - Managing Children's Digital Lives

The Children's Commission has launched a guide for parents and carers about managing children's digital lives. The guide provides advice and support for navigating the online world with your child.

The guide covers a range of topics from the Online Safety Act, Artificial Intelligence, managing screen time and how to stay safe on the internet. The guide contains the opinion of children on each topic that is discussed. The Children's Commission have also created a version for children that includes an activity pack

The guide also provides conversation starters to help you discuss concerns and to learn more about how your child interacts with the internet.

For more information: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/blog/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-childrens-commissioner-launches-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

The guide can be found here: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>