

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 271 MONDAY 8 JUNE 2026

SEND Reform Survey

We would really appreciate it if you could:

- Share the survey with all relevant schools and settings in your area
- Encourage participation, particularly from SENCOs and senior leaders responsible for SEND/AP
- Cascade this through your networks as widely as possible

The survey is still available to complete here:

<https://surveys.bmgresearch.com/wix/p787050355804.aspx>

A few key points:

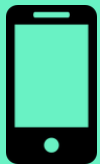
- The survey takes approximately 10–25 minutes to complete
- It should be completed by the person best placed to comment on SEND/AP provision (e.g. SENCO or a senior leader)
- Responses are confidential and will be reported anonymously

The deadline has now been extended to 26 June 2026,

Contact the SEND Service

Call the SEND Service on 01793 464641

Lines are open Monday to Thursday
9am-5pm and 9am-4.30pm on Friday.



Alternatively, you can email

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

Events:

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?
Tuesday 16th June

Where?
The Base, Lyndhurst Crescent, Swindon SN3 2RW

Time?
9.30am - 11am

Working Together - Strengthening Support Reaching Out

Parent/Carer Drop-In Session
A New Format This Month - based on feedback from parents and carers, instead of a structured session, this month's branches will be a parent/carer drop-in event.

Swindon SEND Families Voice

Branches support group, for all parents/ carers of CYP with SEND, on: Tues 16th June 2026
From 9:30 - 11am at The Base, Lyndhurst, Crescent, Swindon, SN3 2RW.



Neurocircle - Autistic Burnout. This is a support group run by Mind for family, friends and carers of individuals who are neurodivergent.

The event is on the 19th of June 10 - 11:30 am at The Junction, Regent Circus, SN1 1QF

To book your ticket: <https://shorturl.at/E04jv>

Experts at Hand:

On the 5th of June 2026, the Department for Education released guidance for Experts at Hand.

The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-send-reform-developing-the-experts-at-hand-offer>



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

<https://www.youtube.com/@swindonlocaloffer5364>

Subscribe for free and give your feedback.

This Is Fostering with Swindon Borough Council

Fostering is about opening your home to a child who needs safety, stability and care. It requires patience, consistency and a belief in children, even when they struggle to believe in themselves. In Swindon, fostering means making a difference locally, helping children remain within their community.

This is fostering: supporting children through uncertainty, celebrating their progress and helping them build confidence for the future. It is grounded in compassion, commitment and quiet determination.

At Swindon Borough Council, we are proud to offer a not-for-profit fostering service that keeps children at the centre of everything we do. By fostering locally, carers help children stay connected to their schools, friendships and familiar surroundings; something we know is crucial during times of change.

The People Behind Fostering

Foster carers are ordinary people doing something extraordinary. They come from all walks of life, whether they are single or in relationships, working or retired, renting or homeowners. They reflect diverse cultures, faiths, genders and sexual orientations. What unites them is a shared commitment to providing care, stability and understanding.

Using everyday skills such as listening, reassuring and encouraging, foster carers help children feel safe and valued. Often, it is the small, consistent acts of care that have the greatest impact in rebuilding trust.

Supported Every Step of the Way

Our fostering team offers accessible training and ongoing support from experienced professionals who understand the local community and the realities of fostering. Carers also support one another through shared experiences.

Where additional needs arise, therapeutic services are available to support both children and carers. This ensures foster carers can respond with confidence, empathy and a trauma-informed approach.

Recognising Commitment

Foster carers receive a weekly allowance to cover the cost of care, alongside a skills-based payment that reflects their experience. This allows carers to focus on providing stable, nurturing homes.

A Connected Community

All carers are members of supportive networks such as the Fostering Network and the Swindon Foster Carers Association. Additional benefits include access to a holiday lodge and eligibility for a Blue Light Card. By fostering with Swindon Borough Council, you become part of a community making a lasting difference.

This is fostering. Your skills. Their future.

To find out more about fostering with Swindon Borough Council, visit www.swindon.gov.uk/fostering or call **07917 503447**