

# SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 256 MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2025

## Parent Support Survey

We want to hear from parents and carers in Swindon to understand the challenges you are facing and how services can better support you and your family. Your views will help shape future services for families in the local area.

**Have Your Say on Being a Parent and Carer in Swindon**

We want to hear from parents and carers in Swindon to understand the challenges you're facing and how services can better support you and your family.

Your views will help shape future services for families in the local area. Scan the QR code to take part - it's quick, anonymous, and makes a real difference.

letstalk.swindon.gov.uk/parentingsupport

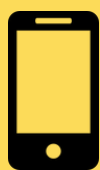
Swindon Borough Council

Closing date: 18 November

The survey will close on Tuesday, 18 November 2025

**To take part click here** or scan the QR code.

## 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/20190/send\\_local\\_offer](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20190/send_local_offer)

## Events:

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

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

**WHEN?** Monday 24th November  
**WHERE?** Punjabi Community Centre Gorse Hill  
**TIME?** 10am-12pm

**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.

**Kirk Anderson - Understanding Challenging Behaviour Session**  
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:  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November,  
Punjabi Community Centre  
9:30-11:30 pm

**Branches Support Group**  
Swindon SEND Families Voice run Branches Support groups for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND.

Their next event is on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> of November 10-11:30 am.

It is being held at Park South Community Centre Activity Room, Cranmore Avenue, SN3 2ES

**BRANCHES SUPPORT GROUP EVERYONE WELCOME**

Tel: 07486 813405  
Email: [swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com](mailto: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 18th November  
**Where?** Park South Community Centre Activity Room, Cranmore Avenue, SN3 2ES  
**Time?** 10am - 11:30am  
**Guest Speakers:** Jade & Ellie from Inpire Enrichment & Hunt, Scholara Tulson, from Hennehan from Drawing and Talking  
**Working Together Strengthening Support Reaching Out**

Swindon SEND Families Voice

**mind Swindon and Gloucestershire**

**NeuroCircle**

**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 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Topic</b>	ARFID, Avoidant/Restrictive food intake disorder with Kirk Anderson	Winter Warmer Coffee and Cake Drop in

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

**Neurocircle**  
Held on the third Friday of every month.  
For friends, family and carers of neurodiverse people.  
The next session is about AFRID and is on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of November 9:30 - 11:30 am  
The Junction, Town hall. You can also join online.

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



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

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

## ELSA Initial Training – January 2026 Places Available

We still have spaces available on the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) Initial Training Course starting January 2026.

This 6-day course equips school staff to plan and deliver individual or group programmes supporting pupils' emotional needs. ELSAs help pupils learn more effectively by addressing emotional barriers within their own school setting.

**Cost:** £684 per delegate

### ELSAs receive:

- ✓ 6 days of group training
- ✓ 2 group supervision sessions with an Educational Psychologist
- ✓ Practical tools and theoretical understanding
- ✓ Ongoing peer support

### Training Details:

Venue: Eldene Primary School

Time: 9.30am–3.00pm

### Dates:

21 Jan | 28 Jan | 11 Feb | 25 Feb | 11 Mar | 18 Mar

(Back-up: 25 Mar & 15 Apr)

To book, visit the **Swindon Hub for Education**.

For more information, contact the Educational Psychology Service: [ELSA@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:ELSA@swindon.gov.uk)

## Anti-Bullying Week 2025

Each November, Anti-Bullying Week brings schools, families and communities together to challenge bullying and to promote kindness and respect. This week Anti-Bully Week runs from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of November with the theme "Power for good". The organisers of this week is the Anti-Bullying Alliance who have created a wide range of resources including school packs, lesson ideas, parent and carer guides.

These tools are designed to help everyone understand what bullying is, how to respond to it and how to build a culture where everyone feels included.



To find out more about Anti-Bullying Week click the link below:

[Anti-Bullying Week resources](#)