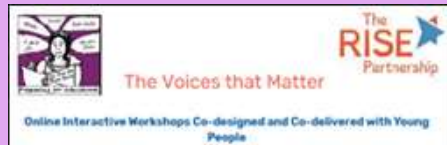


# SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 252  
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See our special Page 2 articles on updates to DFN Project Search and Preparing for Adulthood training



## Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) programme update

The ELSA programme is an approach for Teaching Assistants to deliver individual or group interventions to children and young people who are experiencing social, emotional and mental health difficulties. Information can be found on the Local Offer website:

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20195/education/1395/emotional\\_literacy\\_support\\_assistant\\_elsa\\_reports](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20195/education/1395/emotional_literacy_support_assistant_elsa_reports)

During the academic year 2024-25, the Educational Psychology Service (EPS) ran initial training for new ELSAs, supervision for current ELSAs and top-up training for current ELSAs who wanted to develop their skills further.

Impact and evaluation reports related to the Swindon ELSA programme (2024-25) can be found through the Local Offer website link above along with explanatory information.

## Events:

### 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:

	This month	Next month
Date	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October
Topic	Wellbeing for Caregivers	Open discussion with S&G Mind

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

## Neurocircle

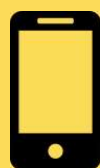
Held on the third Friday of every month, during term-time from 9.30-11.30 am at The Junction, Town Hall, Swindon. On Friday, 19 Sept 2025 the topic will be wellbeing for caregivers.

## SENFEST

An inclusive festival celebrating young people with SEND at Wiltshire Music Centre, Bradford On Avon, BA15 1DZ on 20 Sept 2025 from 10am - 6pm.  
Booking: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/local-offer/news/sendfest-2025>



## 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)



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

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

Subscribe and give your feedback.

## DFN Project Search - supported internships

Nine new interns have joined Swindon Borough Council as part of a supported programme. The interns are part of DFN Project SEARCH, a nationally recognised programme aimed at young people aged 18 to 24 with learning disabilities, autism, or both.

The group began their internships in early September 2025 and were welcomed with an induction session led by the council's Chief Executive, Sam Mowbray. Ms Mowbray discussed her role, leadership, and the work of the council, fielding various questions from the group.

DFN Project SEARCH provides the interns with the opportunity to complete three workplace rotations over an academic year. During this time, they will receive on-site support from job coaches and tutors. In addition to working with the council, interns will also have placements at Great Western Hospital and Amazon.

The programme is designed to create more inclusive employment opportunities in Swindon. A spokesperson for the council said: "We were excited to welcome our nine new DFN Project SEARCH interns to the council as they officially began their supported internship journey with us. "We're looking forward to seeing all that our interns will achieve over the coming months."



Further information about DFN Project Search can be found on the Local Offer website:  
[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20202/preparing\\_for\\_adult\\_life/1583/dfn\\_project\\_search](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20202/preparing_for_adult_life/1583/dfn_project_search)

### Preparation for Adulthood training (free)

The SEND Code of Practice 2015 makes it clear that the voice of young people must be central to all aspects of the SEND system. Young people need to be supported to express their aspirations for now and in the future and to think about outcomes that will help them to achieve great lives.

NDTi is delivering a series of 11 online interactive workshops with young disabled people on Preparation for Adulthood. These are open to professionals, family members and young people. You are encouraged to join your regional group but if this is not possible can join another session. These interactive workshops being offered are co-designed and delivered by young people who will share their wisdom about how the SEND system can change so that it works for them.

The South West session will be on Tuesday 2nd December 2025, from 2.00-4.30pm. Book your place [here](#):