SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 282 MONDAY 09 NOVEMBER 2026

Swindon Assistive Technology Lending Library

After a successful pilot, we are happy to share that the Swindon's Assistive Technology Lending Library will be continuing this academic year. The assistive technology library allows children and young people with SEND access to a range of technologies that support and enhance learning. The project offers schools across Swindon the opportunity to explore assistive technology through a "try before your buy" approach, helping staff identify the tools that can make the biggest impact for their pupils.

Schools can borrow a range of equipment including Ipads, reader pens, visualisers and specialist software such as Dragon Dictation and Read & Write. We currently have a large number of ipads available to loan, giving schools an excellent opportunity to trial versatile, high-impact technology within real classroom environments.

To sign up to the library, you can register here: https://swindonboroughcouncilatll.lend-engine-app.com/
Please note the terms and conditions of borrowing equipment can be found on the lend engine.

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

Branches support group, for all parents/carers of children with SEND, on Tuesday, 17 November 2026, from 7-8.30pm at the Punjabi Community Centre, Swindon, SN2 7BB. Guest speakers include: Nicola Ponton, Head of SEND Service at Swindon Borough Council.

SEND Banding Framework Consultation

Swindon Borough Council is consulting on proposed changes to its SEND banding framework, which determines funding for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The aim is to make funding fairer, clearer and more consistent, ensuring support better reflects each child's individual needs.

The proposed changes include clearer descriptions of the different funding bands and the support expected at each level. Parents, carers, young people and professionals are encouraged to share their views and experiences to help shape the new framework. The consultation runs from 2 November to 13 December 2026, with changes potentially being introduced in September 2027.

To find out more and complete the survey click here: https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20217/consultations_and_updates/1845/send_banding_framework_consultation

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.

Experts at Hand

Specialist support. Stronger together.

For brighter futures in Swindon



Children. Families. Communities Stronger Together.

BUILDING THE SERVICE TOGETHER

Experts at Hand is continuing to develop through engagement with schools, early years providers and partners across Swindon.

WHO WE'VE ENGAGED WITH

Working together for brighter futures



Schools

Primary, secondary and special schools



Early Years Providers

Nurseries, pre-schools and early years settings



Swindon SEND Family Voice

Parents, carers and young people helping to shape the service

Since September we have been working with schools, early years providers and Swindon SEND Family Voice to understand what support is needed most and how the service can have the greatest impact for children, young people and families.

WHAT WE'RE HEARING

Your feedback makes a difference

Earlier support

Support before needs escalate

Strong relationships

Professionals who understand local communities

Practical support

Support alongside staff, children and families

Joined-up working

Better collaboration across services

Building capacity

Growing expertise and confidence within settings and communities

HOW THIS IS SHAPING THE SERVICE

Turning feedback into action

- Established locality-based delivery arrangements
- Recruited Specialist Teachers for Inclusion
- Increased Educational Psychology capacity through Assistant Educational Psychologists
- Expanded ELSA and Neurodiversity in Education opportunities
- Incorporated the Assistive Technology Lending Library into Experts at Hand
- Continuing to strengthen support for inclusive practice across Swindon

WHAT'S NEXT?

Building on progress together

Continuing engagement

- Schools
- Early years providers
- Swindon SEND Family Voice

This half term

- STEPS
- Post-16 providers

We will begin discussions with STEPS and post-16 providers to ensure the service reflects the needs of young people across the full education journey.

Working with health partners

We have started initial meetings with our health colleagues to explore future opportunities to broaden the Experts at Hand offer, including the potential integration of:

- Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT)
- Occupational Therapy (OT)

Find out more

If you would like to know more about Experts at Hand, share feedback or ask a question, please get in touch.

ExpertsAtHand@swindon.gov.uk

We'd love to hear from you.

Stronger support. Brighter futures.

Swindon Borough Council