

# SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE FIVE  
NOVEMBER 1ST 2019

## SEND STRATEGY CONSULTATION

We want to have a clear, forward looking SEND strategy for education, health and care across Swindon 2020-23. Our consultation is now live. We welcome young people, parents, educational settings and services to complete the strategy consultation survey.

### HOW CAN I HELP?

**Click here to open the Local Offer page where you will find the link to an online survey. Please complete the survey and let us know what you think!**

The SEND Strategy Consultation Survey is open from 25th October to 6th December.

We will use a wide variety of consultation tools in order to reach the widest possible audience. You can attend an open event on the 21st, 28th November and 4th December. Parents can attend a coffee morning on the 20th November. STEP is also planning focus groups for young people. Click here to find out more.

**We would appreciate your help in getting this invitation shared far and wide through your networks. Click here to see the flyer to put on your noticeboards!**

## A FORWARD THINKING FORUM

Louise McGinty, SEND Advisor, and Jess Delicata, Swindon SENCo Champion, recently attended a Milton Keynes SEND Forum.

The forum, an advice and guidance panel, consists of a SEN Local Authority budget holder, a school leader and the Intervention and Inclusion manager (managing a deployable team of specialist advisory teachers).

SENCOs, Senior Leaders and/or headteachers are invited for 30 minutes to present their SEND issue to this panel. These issues can range from specific placement breakdown, difficulties in diagnosis, reasonable adjustments and funding requests before EHC assessment, or extra funding requests with EHCP.

Schools really value this resource which meets every week to support schools directly, triage problems and find immediate solutions. They were effusive with praise for this resource which have been running for 3 years. They describe it as a safe environment to be challenged, permission to think out of the box and targeting resources appropriately. It is a collegial coaching conversation, which proposes ways forward whilst managing expectations; to support the here and now as well as make plans for the future.

To date, requests in Milton Keynes for top up funding without EHCPs has decreased over 3 years, the quality of EHCPs improved and schools report they have the correct intervention for inclusion resource.

We are working on a pilot for a Swindon version of this forum to start in the Spring term 2020 - Watch this space!