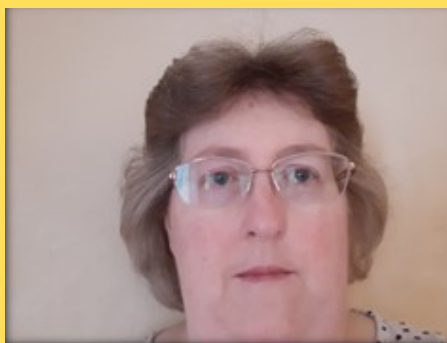


SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE THIRTY FOUR
JUNE 12TH 2020

MEET THE SEND SERVICE



Hello, my name is Rachel Mann and I have just joined Swindon Borough Council as the SEND Inclusion and Training Officer. I have lived in Swindon most of my life, and I have raised my family here. I've spent the last 18 years working to improve the outcomes of children and young people in a variety of roles, and I am passionate about supporting children with SEND. I have previously worked for another local authority, including in Schools Effectiveness, and more recently in Commissioning.

My main priorities as SEND Inclusion and Training Officer will include: engaging with forums and groups that represent children, young people and their parents; promoting better outcomes through inclusion; and looking at training needs for services. I am excited to have joined Swindon Borough Council at this time, and I am looking forward to being part of a team that is working hard to continue to make positive changes for children and young people in Swindon. I hope to be out and about meeting you soon.

SWINDON SEND FAMILIES VOICE SURVEY RESULTS

Swindon SEND Families Voice are the parent carer forum for Swindon and have surveyed local families that have children with SEND to see how Covid-19 has impacted them, how well they have felt supported and communicated to during this difficult time, and what their concerns are for the future. They received 240 responses and here are some of the results:

- Respondents rated the support they have had from their educational setting as 3.3 out of 5
- 35% said their educational setting was in contact with them once a week compared to 15% who said their setting had not made contact at all
- 11 respondents have had their EHCP Annual Reviews cancelled
- 115 respondents said appointments that had taken place via video or phone worked well, compared to 32 that disagreed
- 46 out of 54 respondents that have Social Workers described contact with them during this time had been very helpful/helpful
- Many said that they found lack of respite during this time very difficult and are worried about the future of Hop, Skip and Jump
- Many said they were worried about transitioning their children back into their current school or a new school in September

Respondents were also asked, what has helped you through this time? Below are some of their responses:

"Speaking to our school Senco and staying in touch with other parents"

"I signed up to the Hop skip and Jump welfare call service. This helped me hugely."

"Online resources for my children which helped them in their learning"

What could have been done better to help you during the Covid-19 outbreak?:

"To have youth group chats in schools, where my son could see and talk to his friends/teacher."

"Education tasks specific to my child's stage."

"Better communication and support from the school. I feel as though they have just left us to it."

The results of the survey will be analysed and used to help guide Swindon Borough Council and other appropriate agencies where improvements to services can be made. For example, a lot of responders said they would like more regular communication via email directly from the Local Authority, so Swindon SEND Families Voice and SBC are already working together to put together a parents and carers version of the SEND News Splash, details of which will be coming soon.

SEND SERVICE CONTACT DETAILS

Due to the current situation, the SEND Service is working with limited capacity. To speak to a member of staff, please call 07824 868353 or 07971 715864 or email SENAT@swindon.gov.uk and we will answer your query in 48 – 72 hours. Our telephone lines are open Monday to Thursday 8-5, and 8-4.30 Friday.

[Click here to read the excellent Summer 2020 edition of the Swindon SEND Families Voice Newsletter!!](#)

