

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE FORTY FOUR
28TH AUGUST 2020

FREE WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Swindon SEND Families Voice are hosting 2 FREE workshops, about resilience and dealing with challenging behaviours, for parents and carers in the local area. Places are limited and booking is essential. They are suitable for any parent and carer, whether their children/young people have a diagnosis or not. Please pass on the information to your families that attend your provision.

Workshop 1 is about resilience and will be really fun and interactive.

Workshop 2 will help with those struggling with meltdowns and behaviours that challenge in their family.

Both workshops offer an optional follow up session to see how things are going and to see if any of the strategies have worked, or try to offer alternatives if they haven't! The workshops will take place over Zoom Video and all the information on how to book are in the attached posters.

SEND Service contact details

Call 07824 868353 or 07971 715864 (telephone lines are open Monday to Thursday 8-5 and 8-4.30 Friday) or email SENAT@swindon.gov.uk.

TRANSPORT UPDATES

Swindon SEND Families Voice, the parent carer forum for the local area, have been working for almost a year to influence some positive changes to SEND Transport in Swindon based on the feedback from parents and carers.

Jacqui, the Chair of the forum told us, "We are pleased to say that the following improvements have been agreed. We look forward to working closely with Swindon Borough Council and the CCG over the next year to implement the new policy."

1) It has been approved that we can put together a Code of Conduct for Swindon Borough Council to follow, like the agreement families are asked to complete for their children to use transport. We wanted to make this change, because many felt our children are expected to behave in a certain way, but then changes would be made without notifying families (such as changes to Passenger Assistants) when changes like this unsettles and causes anxiety to some, which then makes it more difficult for them to maintain the appropriate level of behaviour. We felt it was only fair that the SEND Transport service should have a code of conduct they should sign up to, to include better communication around changes to PAs. The new document will not be in place by September, but will be live as soon as possible.

2) The SEND Transport Policy is updated every year and has a consultation period so service users can provide feedback on it. The consultation for SEND Transport was historically sandwiched together with the consultation for School Admissions and Mainstream Transport. To feedback on the SEND Transport policy, you had to go through the other consultation questions too (including many other documents). We found this very inaccessible, a point which was confirmed by the fact only 3 people provided feedback on the SEND Transport consultation. We expressed our concerns to Swindon Borough Council and am pleased to say that going forward the SEND Transport Policy will be consulted on it's own.

3) The third change relates to concerns about how children's medical needs are met on transport. From September 2021 medications will be able to be administered, subject to an individual risk assessment/care plan and provided the Passenger Assistants have received the appropriate training. We are pleased with this improvement, because from next year it means that the appropriate PAs will commence additional training, to be able to support our children who have medical needs ready for September 2021. Our children's medical needs don't stop when they get on the school bus, so having this change to the policy is a very needed and positive step that we welcome.

To view the Travel Assistance pages on the Local Offer please [click here.](#)