**Swindon School SEND Information Reports Update**

**April 2022**

**Introduction**

In the SEND Code of Practice Section 6.79, and Children’s and Families Act 2014 Section 69, it is a requirement for all schools to publish a SEND information report annually. To support the SEND Written Statement of Action Priority 1, data from 30% (29) of schools/settings SEND Information reports in Swindon were read and evaluated in Autumn 2020. A cross-section of schools was chosen, ensuring an even spread between age-group school covered, type of school, governance arrangements of school and location of school. Swindon SEND Families Voice (SSFV) also contributed to the evaluation of a sample of school SEND information reports.

**Methodology**

29 schools SEND Information reports were evaluated using information available on each school’s website. 10 evaluation criteria were used (aligned with NASEN Whole School SEND criteria related to good-practice person-centred approaches). Schools SEND information reports were rated against each criteria. A 5-point scale was used, where 1 = poor, 3 = fair/majority of areas covered and 5 = excellent.

Key criteria measured:

* Co-production with children, young people, parents/carers of plans and services offered.
* Parent-friendliness of the layout and presentation of the report (SEND CoP, 6.81)
* Whether the report refers to Swindon Local Offer (SEND CoP, 6.81)
* Whether the report refers to Swindon Core Standards and the Graduated Response to SEND.
* For senior schools, quality of information about pathway to adulthood planning for young people (SEND CoP, 8)

**Summary of Trends found in Autumn 2020**

* Many schools are showing information within their SEND reports which indicate that person-centred approaches are valued and put into practice.
* Primary schools/settings had slightly more person-centred information available on their websites than Secondary or Post 16 settings.
* The number of schools/settings with good quality information around pathway to adulthood planning and supporting young people to achieve their aspirations was low.
* A few schools/settings had examples of excellent child-centred practice, for example film clips of children/young people introducing their school or services available, or quotes from children/young people/parents/carers about the provision offered to them.
* The number of schools/settings that had a working link to Swindon Local Offer website within their own website was low.
* The number of schools/settings that mentioned Swindon Core Standards was low.

**Action taken**

In March 2021, the above information was fed back to school SENCOs at their SENCO Network event.



The following recommendations and actions were taken:

* Offer support and advice to schools around how to improve children and young peoples’ co-production and hear children and young people’s voices. (SENCO Network Meeting Session 1 covered this in March 2021)
* Encourage schools/settings to use and include information about Swindon Core Standards on their webpages relating to SEND and to have an up-to-date link to the Swindon Local Offer website. (Core Standards previously shared, and link to Local Offer mentioned in March 2021)
* Continue efforts to improve quality of SEND information offered and person-centredness within educational provision by producing an example school SEND report to support schools/settings in the local area. This example should include a mixture of both statutory requirements and what is considered good practice in Swindon. (A guidance document was shared and discussed in break-out groups in March 2021)



**Moving forwards:**

In December 2021, as part of SEND & Inclusion Strategy Priority 3 Action Plan, the remaining 70% of Swindon school SEND Information Reports that were not reviewed in 2020, were read and evaluated. The methodology used in 2020 (above) was again used in 2022 to ensure consistence when measuring the quality of the remaining 70% of school SEND Information Reports.

In addition, in line with the SEND Code of Practice Section 6.11 and Children and Families Act 2014, Section 100, a review of which Swindon schools displayed an easily accessible Medical Needs Policy on their website was also completed.

Overall Quality of School SEND Information Reports -both audits combined together

\*High quality rating =4/5, Middle=3, low=1/2 (average over 10 evaluation criteria).

58% of Swindon schools are showing information within their SEND reports which indicate that person-centred approaches are valued and put into practice.

Comparing the 2020 analysis to the 2022 analysis of Swindon School SEND Information Reports, more schools in 2022 had a higher percentage quality score than in 2020, and less schools in 2022 had a middle percentage quality score than in 2020. The number of schools in 2022 that had a lower percentage quality score had risen slightly from 2020.

Given these clear improvements in quality scores over time, it is apparent that SENCOs have benefitted from the training and guidance delivered to them in March 2021, regarding producing best practice SEND Information reports.

Medical Needs Policies

The percentage of Swindon Schools that had an easily accessible Medical Needs Policy on their website was 67%.

Of the 33% of schools that did not have an easily accessible Medical Needs Policy on their website, the majority did have a SEND Information Report that indicated that person-centred approaches are valued and put into practice.

**Recommendations:**

Whilst the results of the 2022 analysis of Swindon School SEND Information Reports is encouraging (with almost 60% being evaluated as high quality), these results show that further recommendations/actions are needed to continue to support schools to improve.

The previous 3 recommendations on page 2 of this report are still valid, and further encouragement to revisit/embed these should be given to schools moving forwards.

For those schools who are not showing a Medical Needs Policy on their websites, this should be addressed giving them appropriate guidance and support to get one in place.

**Next steps:**

As part of SEND & Inclusion Strategy Priority 3 Action Plan, all Swindon School SEND Information Reports will be reviewed every other year. This will be completed by reviewing 50% of Swindon School SEND Information Reports each year, starting in 2023 with the original 30% completed in 2020 plus 20% of schools that scored the lowest in 2022. The remaining 50% of schools SEND Information Reports will be reviewed in 2024.

SENCOs will be supported to continue improving their SEND Information Reports, through a presentation of this updated analysis report and re-circulation of the good practice guidance created last year.

Schools who are not showing a Medical Needs Policy on their websites, will be provided with the appropriate guidance and support, including signposting them to the following DfE information and resources: [Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3)