

Swindon's Sufficiency Strategy 2023-2027

What is Sufficiency and why do we need a Strategy?

"Sufficiency" means having enough of the right homes and services, in the right places, to support Swindon's children, young people and families. This also includes thinking about how good those homes and services are.

Writing our sufficiency strategy has helped us to better understand what kinds of homes and services our children and young people need to be safe, to reach their full potential and develop skills for life, enjoy healthy lifestyles and be happy and active members of the community. The sufficiency strategy helps us think about how things may change over time and what we should focus on over the next five years.



What are we going to do?

We have a plan in place which lots of people have worked on, including professionals and a care experienced expert to decide what we should work on first. The first plan we have will tell you what we will work on for the first year. It includes things like:

- Working with our children and young people to design new services and check the quality of the ones we already have
- We will encourage the people that own the homes where our children live to create more homes in Swindon
- Our fostering team will find more foster families for our children and young people
- We will write a strategy which is a document setting out how we will find homes for our children and young people sooner, so they don't have to wait as long for their forever home
- By working closer with the councils housing team, we will create more high-quality homes for our care experienced young people in Swindon
- We will visit the homes where our children and young people live and meet with the people that look after them to make sure they are high quality



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How have we listened?

We asked our care experience expert what they thought of the sufficiency strategy and what the most important areas were to them.

We asked the professionals that work with our children and young people what they think needs to go into the sufficiency strategy.

What do the children and young people say about sufficiency in Swindon?

The strategy was shared with our Care Experienced Consultant, who said the following- This is a clear report with both positive and negative points. It is good that Swindon are working to keep more young people in Swindon instead of sending them out of area where they are more likely to gain less support. I agree Swindon needs more specialist provisions to support young people with complex needs. The report only seems to be focussed on YP under 17, but housing issues extend right up until 25. It would be good to see attention brought the issues CEYP face as well as those who are under 17. The PIP programme sounds like a good idea provided it is implemented correctly. I would like to see what success would look like for housing situations in Swindon for all ages.

As we make plans and move forward, we will work with our children and young people to make sure their voices are heard and their views considered!



For more information please email: ChildrensServicesCommissioning@swindon.gov.uk