

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY
9TH JANUARY 2023



SEND Citizen & Professional Portals Downtime

Whilst our Portals undergo maintenance, they will be unavailable at the following dates and times in 2023. We ask that you do not attempt to use the portals during this time; any information recorded during this time, will be lost. Thank you for your understanding:

- 16/01/2023 @ 16:30 until 17/01/2023 @ 8:00
- 17/03/2023 @ 16:30 until 20/03/2023 @ 8:00

We will of course remind you of these dates closer to the time.

Contact the SEND Service


To speak to a member of the SEND Service, please call 01793 464641 (during usual working hours) and we will answer your query in 48-96 hours.

Telephone lines are open Monday to Thursday 8am-5pm and 8am-4:30pm on Friday. Alternatively, you can email SENDSERVICE@swindon.gov.uk.

For more information, please visit the [Meet the SEND Service page on the Local Offer](#).

Parent Champion's

by Gemma Ferguson, Early Years Engagement Officer

Myself and colleague, Lynn Turner who is responsible for coordinating the Parent Champion scheme in Swindon have put together a Parent Champion page on the Local Offer website. You can visit the website here: [Swindon Local Offer - Parent Champions Main Menu](#). 

The page is aimed at parent/carers who have had a positive experience of using the Early Education childcare entitlements such as the 2 Year Funding and would be interested in becoming a Parent Champion volunteer. The programme is based on the belief that parents are the best people to support each other by sharing experiences of using early years education and local services. Parent champions can build trust with other parents, putting them at ease and encouraging them to make the best of the help available. The page will provide parent/carers with the necessary next steps to move forwards with this new venture.

The Local Offer pages provide information on how to become a Parent Champion volunteer and the role required, information on the early education & childcare entitlements, feedback from parent/carers and also meeting our current Parent Champion team. The role is varied and it includes supporting the Early Years team with engagement work such as helping at early years and community events, attending community groups such as soft play and parent/carer toddler groups, having informal conversations with other parent/carers at the school gates, local park or bus stop and the sharing of early years entitlements information on social media pages. Parent Champions will have had a positive experience of using their own child's Early Years Entitlement and enjoy meeting other parent/carers to share these experiences and encourage them to take up the funding. Parent Champions may have the opportunity to undertake training courses and could find that the voluntary work is a step up to paid employment. The scheme will also help parent/carers with improving their confidence and the opportunity to meet like-minded people.

[Please subscribe to the Local Offer YouTube channel here](#)

