

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY SEVEN
27TH FEBRUARY 2023

**BRANCHES
SUPPORT GROUP
EVERYONE WELCOME**



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BRANCHES is a support group open to all parents and carers of children and young people with any Special Educational Need or Disability, aged 0-25 years

When?
Thursday 9th March

Where?
The Meadow, Leigh Rd,
SN2 5DE

Time?
10AM-11.30

Guest Speakers
Kirk Anderson
Cahms
Tahms
Local Offer- Andrew Myrie
Healthwatch
Project ME

Working Together
Strengthening Support
Reaching Out

Swindon SEND Families Voice

BRANCHES is a free support group, however voluntary donations for refreshments are welcomed

Holiday activities for children with SEND and their families

- Do you struggle to find inclusive activities for your child and family during school holidays?
- Are you frustrated that you and your child with SEND don't have the same opportunities to get active and mix as other children do in school holidays?
- Do you benefit from time with other parents and carers who understand your situation?
- Are you interested to hear how parents and carers in another area have filled this gap themselves?

Swindon Borough Council are committed to supporting the best opportunities for children with SEND and their families. We recognise that the school holidays can be a particular pressure point, and opportunities are not always equal. Simply going to the local park as a family can be a challenge, but doing it as the only family or parent of a child with SEND can be even more so.

A project has been commissioned by Swindon Borough Council to look at what's on offer now for school age children with SEND and how, in another area, parents and carers have collectively filled this gap. Have a look at the [Cornwall Accessible Activities Programme](#) to see one example.

If you would like to hear more, share your views and potentially get involved please join a **brief online meeting on Thursday 2nd March 7-8.30pm** (simply click on the Microsoft Teams invite below). Share this invite far and wide as we are keen to gauge interest in supporting a similar project for Swindon families in the future.

[Microsoft Teams Meeting Link: Swindon Meeting for Parents/Carers - holiday activities for children with SEND and their families](#)

Date and Time: Thursday, 2 March 2023 19:00:00 GMT.

This project is being supported by Ann Van Dyke. To find out more about the work they do please see the following website [here](#).

Eating Disorder Awareness Week 2023

Eating Disorders aren't about food or weight, but are attempts to deal with control, emotional and stress-related issues. They can affect someone in a variety of different ways, be complex and co-exist with other mental health issues.

This year the theme is 'men get eating disorders too' #HelpMenGetHelp. The website [Beat Eating Disorders](#) has a range of resources that can help destroy toxic stereotypes that prevent men from accessing the treatment that people with eating disorders desperately need.

The Local Offer has information and resources on the subject, such as:

- [Swindon Local Offer - Eating Disorders: Books](#)
- [Swindon Local Offer - Eating Disorders: National advice resources](#)
- [Swindon Local Offer - Resources from those with lived experience of eating disorders](#)

Please subscribe to the Local Offer YouTube channel here

