

SEND FAMILIES NEWS SPLASH

**A newsletter for parents/carers
covering all things SEND in
Swindon**

Welcome



Welcome to the June 2023 edition of our parent carer monthly newsletter, developed following a request from our families. This newsletter is not be a replacement for or a repeat of the weekly SEND News Splash.

This month's SEND Families News Splash includes:

- A profile of the Independent Travel Team
- SEND Annual Survey 2022
- Pictures from SEND Conference 2023

If you would like to see the back editions of the SEND Families News Splash, as well as the weekly SEND News Splash, Swindon SEND Families News Splash and

Meet the SEND Service



INDEPENDENT
TRAVEL

Introduction to the Independent Travel Team

In April 2023 we profiled some of the SEND Travel Team and looked at what these individuals do, week in and week out, for their teams and how their work supports our children, young people and their families. We also found out what they love about the roles they do.

If you missed any of the SEND Team profiles, you can find it along with other SEND Families News Splash editions, on the [Local Offer SEND News Letters page](#).

This month we will look at the Independent Travel Team.

You can get to know more about members of the SEND Service and view their 'All About Me' profiles, on the [Meet the SEND Service page](#).

Independent Travel Team: What do they do?

**Roger,
Independent
Travel Team
Leader, SEND
Travel**



I'm Roger, Independent Travel Hub Team Leader.

I've been involved with SEND Transport in Swindon for many years, and took up this new post recently as part of a restructure. This is a new venture for Swindon, but one that is successfully established in a lot of other local authorities around the country, and we have recently been gathering best practice from several of these authorities.

The work of my team is about improving life chances for many of our CYP who have EHCPs, by identifying and training them to travel independently between home and their educational setting. Independent Travel Training is 1 to 1 training to undertake pre-planned routes, either by walking, by public transport, or a mixture of both.

Demand for travel assistance for eligible CYP has been growing year on year for a very long time, and this is not something that is unique to Swindon.

As local authorities face ongoing financial challenges, strategic initiatives such as ITT can help to ease this pressure, by suppressing demand for spaces on contract transport such as taxis and minibuses.

The staff complement of the ITT Hub is as follows:

- 1 x Team Leader
- 2 x Travel Coordinators
- 2 x Travel Assistants

To date, the Team Leader and 1 x Travel Assistant posts are filled, and we are recruiting for the 3 other posts.

To find out more about Independent Travel Team, what they do and why travel training is important, please visit the [Swindon Local Offer - Independent Travel Training](#) page.

Independent Travel Team: Who are

they?



Tyler, Travel Assistant

What does Tyler like about being a Travel Assistant:

"The best thing about my job is being able to teach children and young people the skills to become more independent, which they can carry with them into adulthood."

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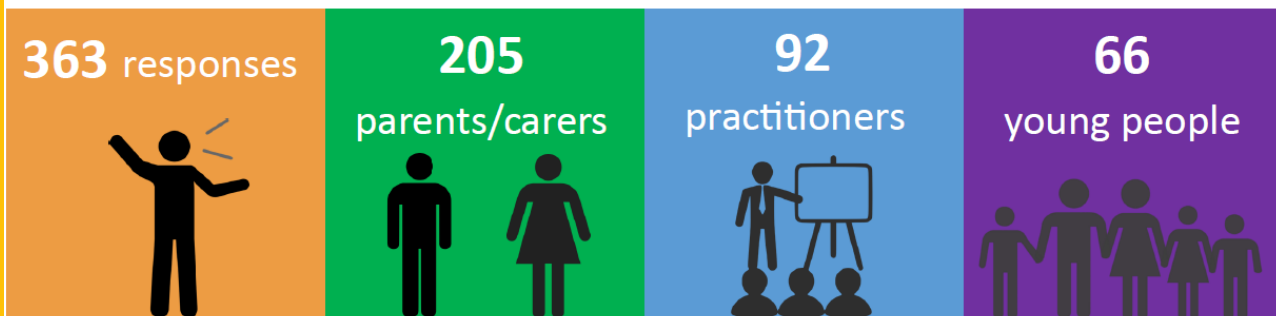
SEND SURVEY 2022



Between October and December 2022, the fourth annual SEND Survey was circulated out to parents/carers, practitioners and young people in Swindon. The aim of the survey is to understand a range of opinions and experiences of SEND Services in Swindon in order to improve the services available. Thank you very much to everyone who responded to the survey and for taking the time to provide feedback to us.

Here is a summary of some of the main findings from the survey:

Who responded?



Views of young people

67% of young people were 'Happy' or 'Very happy' with Swindon SEND Services this year, and **52%** felt that they were involved in decisions about their life 'Always' or 'Most of the time'. **62%** of young people said they felt 'Positive' or 'Very positive' about the future for themselves.

Young people shared that SEND Services could be better for them if there were more clubs, volunteering or work experience opportunities for them. They also told us that we could better include them in decisions about their life by discussion options with them and giving them more information and time to understand it and to always rely or listen to their parents.

Views of parents

Overall, **32%** of parents/carers were 'Satisfied' or 'Very satisfied' with Swindon SEND services. **56%** of parents/carers felt 'Satisfied' or 'Very satisfied' that their child's education setting meets their needs.

Parents/carers identified that the things that had worked well for their child over the past 12 months were:

- School support
- Therapy (e.g. SALT, OT, Physio)
- Aiming High
- Parental support

- Mental health support
- EHCPs

Parents/carers feel that Swindon's SEND Services could be better if waiting times for services was shorter, there were more services available and if services listened to parents.

Whilst there are some aspects of Swindon's SEND Service that are working for young people and parents, there is room for improvement to ensure that all families are satisfied with the service they receive and that young people are getting the right support at the right time. Specific feedback that you have given us has been used to inform the SENDi and Alternative Provision Delivery Plan which can be found in the visual summary report here: [Swindon Local Offer - The Annual SEND Survey 2022](#)

SEND Leaders Conference 2023



Photo by [Kenny Eliason](#) on [Unsplash](#).

The theme at this year's SEND Leaders Conference was resilience, mental health and well-being.

The headline speaker at this year's event was keynote speaker Anthony Bennett – an inspirational and motivational speaker on teamwork, mental health and overcoming challenges. More

information on Anthony can be found here:

<https://anthonyinspires.com/>.

The day ended with the awards ceremony to recognise the work that practitioners and professionals in Swindon undertake for children, young people and their families in Swindon.

We would like to congratulate Swindon SEND Families Voice for winning two awards. With Jacqui winning the Above and Beyond award and Stay and Play (Amina and Hannah) winning Support Service of the Year.

The day was full of inspiration and vision and you could actually feel the pride, passion and commitment to the continued SEND Improvement Journey for Swindon in the room. So on behalf of our children, young people and their families a massive thank you to everyone.

Helpful links

[The Local Offer](#)

[Meet the SEND Service](#)

[Independent Travel pages on the Local Offer](#)

[The Annual SEND Survey 2022](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions for SEND](#)

[If you would like to give feedback on the Local Offer please click here](#)

Swindon Borough Council

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