

Swindon's Participation Strategy – 2021–2024

What is participation?

Participation is about professionals you work with hearing what you have to say and that changing the way we do things. You know what works best and we want to hear from you so we can change things.

Our vision

Our vision is that all children, young people and the families who support them living in Swindon are enabled to have their voices heard and acted upon at all levels, i.e. in the individual support they receive and also strategically as to how services/organisations operate.

"I want to make a difference and I've had good and bad experiences; I want to help in any way I can, I hope I can help make things run smoothly and change things for future families."
Swindon Parent

What are we going to do?

We have written a strategy which is a document setting out what Swindon does already to listen to and do something about what our children, young people and families tell us and how we want to do better in the next three years.

We have worked with lots of different children, young people, families and professionals to make sure we get this right.

The strategy tells you:

- What we should be doing;
- How we should be listening to you, and;
- How you can make sure we are doing a good job.

If you need any help understanding the strategy, please ask someone who supports you or contact challengeandparticipation@swindon.gov.uk

You will...

- Be involved in decisions that affect you.
- Be supported and encouraged to say when you're not happy and for something to be done about it. If we can't do what you've asked, we will tell you why and offer you alternative options.
- Be supported and encouraged to tell us when things are going well or something good happens.
- Your voice will make a difference and we will tell you what difference your voice has made.

"One of my favourite things to do there is to interview people for various jobs that can affect us, so we have to make sure that the right people get the job. I find it interesting to see the sort of people that apply for the jobs and to see, in some cases, how passionate they are about the job."

Swindon Young Person

Why is participation important?

- By using your voice to tell us what needs to change, you will help make the support you get better.
- Give feedback about the people who help you and the people they work for to improve things for yourself and for those like you.

"If you listen, you understand more"
Swindon Young Person



For more information including the whole strategy, related documents and a video explaining what we are doing, please go here: <https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/participationstrategy>