

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 278 MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2026

Family Advisory Board (FAB) Survey



BEST START IN LIFE

SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Family Advisory Board (FAB)

Share your experiences.
Help shape the future.

- Share your story
- Give feedback
- Help shape priorities
- Make a difference

Complete our short survey
It only takes 5-10 minutes.

SCAN HERE

Contact the SEND Service



Call the SEND Service on 01793 464641
Lines are open Monday to Thursday
9am-5pm and 9am-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 -

<https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20208/what-is-the-local-offer/1462/meet-the-send-service>

Events:



**SEND STAY & PLAY
SUPPORT GROUP**
For children aged 0-5 years with SEND
FREE to attend!
Email: sendstayandplay.ssfv@outlook.com to book a place
When: Every Thursday; 10:00 - 12:00
Where: The Meadow, Leigh Road, Swindon, SN2 5DE
Please note parents and carers are responsible for their children whilst attending.

With Amina, Kat or Lyndsay!

SEND Stay & Play Support Group

For Children aged 0-5 with SEND

Every Thursday 10am-12pm at The Meadow, Leigh Road, Swindon SN2 5DE

Please note parents/ carers are responsible for their children and are expected to stay for the session

International Day of Sign Language

International Day of Sign Languages is on the 23rd September, providing an opportunity to celebrate sign languages, raise awareness and encourage more people to learn about Deaf culture and communication. Why not use the day as an opportunity to explore sign language together?

The BBC CBeebies website has a collection of fun and accessible resources for children:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/celebrating-sign-languages>

The National Deaf Children's Society also has a range of British Sign Language videos and resources, including fingerspelling, signs for feelings and emotions, and resources for families:

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/advice-support/language-and-communication/sign-language/british-sign-language-bsl-videos-and-resources>



Check out our useful bite-sized videos on the Local Offer YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/@swindonlocaloffer5364>

Subscribe for free and give your feedback.

Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment Awareness Month

September is CVI (Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment) Awareness Month.

What is CVI?

- Brain-based vision loss: CVI is a visual impairment caused by damage, malformation, or interruption to the brain's visual pathways or processing centres, rather than an issue with the eyes themselves.
- Common impact: It is the leading cause of childhood vision impairment in the UK and other developed countries, estimated to affect at least 1 in 30 primary school children.
- Who it affects: It can affect individuals from birth or be acquired later in life through brain injury, stroke, or lack of oxygen.

Key Organisations & Support in the UK

- The CVI Society: A UK charity offering practical, emotional support, resources, and connection for families and individuals affected by cerebral visual impairment.
- Thomas Pocklington Trust: A UK visual impairment charity that actively promotes CVI awareness and campaigns to reduce barriers to support.

Sibs - For brothers and sisters of disabled children and adults

Sibs (www.sibs.org.uk) is a charity which supports people who grow up with or have grown up with a disabled brother or sister. It is the only UK charity representing the needs of over half a million young siblings and over one and a half million adult siblings. They are running some training sessions available over the next few months:

Introduction to supporting siblings workshop - 29th September 2026

This workshop is for professionals working with families who have disabled children, to better understand the needs of siblings and to think about how they can address them in their current practice. You will gain an insight into siblings' needs and experiences and practical ideas for supporting parents to help siblings.

Booking is essential as places are limited. Please take a look at our website for more information, cost and booking link: <https://www.sibs.org.uk/sibs-workshops-and-training/open-training-for-professionals>

Sibs Talk primary school intervention - 25th November 2026

Sibs Talk is a one-to-one support intervention for school staff to use with siblings in Key Stage 2. Its purpose is to improve siblings' wellbeing and their engagement with learning. It is an activity booklet where each page is a short session for the sibling to work through with a member of staff. Our training session will include advice on how to identify siblings in your school and on evaluating the intervention outcomes. Places are limited so booking is essential. Please take a look at our webpage for more details on Sibs Talk, costs and how to book:

<https://www.sibs.org.uk/sibs-workshops-and-training/sibs-talk-primary-school-intervention-open-training>

FREE Introductory information session for schools - 12th October or 23rd November

This session is open to teaching staff and will explore the unique challenges faced by young siblings, share insights from recent research, and introduce practical FREE resources that schools can use to better support siblings in their settings. Booking is essential as places are limited. For more information and on how to book:

<https://www.sibs.org.uk/sibs-workshops-and-training/free-training-for-schools>