

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 201
MONDAY 11TH MARCH 2024

Occupational therapists and physical therapists - do you know the difference?

The paediatric physio/OT team is based at The Saltway Centre.

Advisory Service for pupils with physical and/or medical needs

What support do we offer?

The Advisory service support pupils aged 2-25 with long-term physical and/or medical needs by supporting the setting to best meet their needs- no EHCP or confirmed diagnosis needed. They:

- Provide advice and information for settings and parents
- Provide equipment e.g. specialist chairs, toilet frames, steps, etc and advise on specialist resources
- Input into EHCNA process, attend meetings as necessary
- Provide training on disability awareness, manual handling, specific conditions, etc
- Advise on risk assessments, educational trips, access (ramps, bathrooms, etc), adapted PE, fire evacuation for those who need additional support, reduced timetables, etc
- Signpost to other services, accessible sports available locally, etc
- Advise on alternative forms of recording
- Support transition across settings
- Liaise with other professionals including school nurses, doctors, OT's, physios, Education Welfare Officer's, EOTAS home tuition service, etc.

Think you have a child who needs referring for input or have questions about a child? You may have a child with a new medical diagnosis or who can't participate in PE or who struggles with accessing lessons, writing, using the toilet or sitting, etc. No EHCP or diagnosis needed. Email, Clare Brewster (see email below) initially for a chat as some input does not require a referral. Anyone can refer - parent or professional.

Accessible sport in Swindon!

There are inclusive/accessible sports groups running in Swindon- contact Clare (see email address below) for more information. Two Swindon Access Days are run each year for pupils with medical/visual/physical needs in February and July. They are also working with sports providers to set up other sports events in Swindon which will be accessible for all.

Dressability

A lot of young people with physical needs struggle with dressing and undressing. Dressability is a fabulous local charity who replaces standard fastenings with alternatives (velcro, magnets, etc) making them much easier to get on and off and increasing independence, but leaving them looking the same so nobody knows! (www.dressability.org.uk).

Useful contacts

- Paediatric therapy: 01793 464246 (Saltway Centre)
- Swindon Wheelchair Services: 0303 333 1460
- More useful links and information on the [Swindon Local Offer](#).

Clare Brewster - SBC Advisory Teacher for pupils with physical and/or medical needs email: cbrewster@swindon.gov.uk.

OT vs. PT

What's the Difference?



Occupational Therapy (OT)

OT helps a person do things at point A and B.

OT focuses on improving a person's ability to perform activities of daily living (bathing, dressing, eating, etc.).



Physical Therapy (PT)

PT helps a person get from point A to point B.

PT treats the effects of illness, injury and disability by using therapeutic exercise, manual therapy and other techniques to help a patient restore movement in the body.

hillcrest
Hospital | Claremore

Call the SEND Service on 01793 464641. 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.

Please subscribe to the Local Offer YouTube channel here



CONTACT THE LOCAL OFFER ON LOCALOFFER@SWINDON.GOV.UK

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**Swindon SEND
Families Voice**

Join Our Team!

**We are looking for Parent
Representatives**

**Can you spare the occasional couple of
hours?**

What we can offer you?

We can remunerate you £12 an hour for meetings you attend.

We can refund your travel expenses.

We can offer flexible working within school hours.

We can offer you free training and the opportunity to learn new skills.

You will be part of a growing team that is striving to make a real difference to all children with SEND and their families in Swindon.

What would I have to do?

Attend meetings/events/school visits with a steering group member or another parent representative. Complete a feedback form to say how it went.

Want to know more?

For more information or to apply: Email us at swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com or call us on 07486 873 405

The closing date to apply for a role as a parent representative is 5pm on Monday 25th March