

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 180
11TH SEPTEMBER 2023

**BRANCHES
SUPPORT GROUP
EVERYONE WELCOME**



Tel: 07486 873405
Email: swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com

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



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

Short Breaks Consultation 2023 now open

Swindon Borough Council is reviewing our short break services for children and young people aged 0 to 18 years old who are Swindon residents and have a disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010. We are looking for your views on our proposed changes.

The purpose of this consultation

Every Local Authority is required to publish a Short Breaks Statement that sets out the range of short breaks available and explains who can access short breaks and how. This Short Breaks Statement must be reviewed on a regular basis. Our last short breaks review in 2021 identified that a further comprehensive review of our Short Breaks Statement was needed – a full review and potential re-design of every element of the what, who and how of short breaks in Swindon. We have worked with Swindon SEND Families Voice (our parent carer forum) and STEP (our disabled children and young people's forum) to gain an initial picture of what is working well or otherwise. Together we have developed some big ideas, which form a major part of this consultation.

Have your say

We are seeking the views of parents and carers of disabled children or young people. We want to understand the impact proposed changes will have on your family before decisions are made. We will take your views expressed in this consultation into account when looking at how we change and develop our Short Breaks Statement. You may also have other ideas that we have not considered.


Please read and respond to the consultation here:


<https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/shortbreaksconsultation>


Alongside Swindon SEND Families Voice, we will also be hosting an online focus group for parents and carers as part of the consultation (dates to be confirmed shortly). We will consult with children and young people through focus groups in specialist schools and short breaks provisions during September and October 2023. If you are a professional or provider with a view, please email shortbreakconsultation@swindon.gov.uk. We welcome fresh ideas on what could be done differently to help us continue to improve disabled children and young people's lives in Swindon.

The consultation goes live on 5th September 2023 and will remain open for 6 weeks until 17th October 2023.

If you have any questions please email shortbreakconsultation@swindon.gov.uk.

 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

Issue 180, Monday 11th September 2023