

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE NINETY THREE
MONDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2021

The 3rd Annual SEND Survey 2021 is now open – until the end of November!

The 3rd annual SEND survey has been co-produced by parents, young people and professionals and is designed to ensure we have a way of annually measuring opinions and experiences of SEND services in Swindon from those receiving and delivering help, advice and support.

We would be very grateful if you could fill out this survey, which should take about 5 minutes, to help us understand what has been working well for you over the past 12 months and what could work better. Your responses will be used to plan the next steps of our improvement journey and this will be captured within a 'You Said, We Did' report, published on the Local Offer website.

To fill out the survey please click on the [Annual SEND Survey 2021](#) link.

SAVE THE DATE: THE LOCAL OFFER BIG FORTNIGHT 2021 IS COMING SOON!

Following the success of the previous Local Offer Big Day 2019 and Local Offer Roadshow 2020, we are pleased to announce that we will be holding the Local Offer Big Fortnight 2021 from **15-26th November**.

This virtual event will offer a range of presentations, feedback and focus groups sharing information and services that are available for Swindon residents.

More information will be here on the [Local Offer](#) soon!

Specialist Early Years Centre

As many people will already be aware, the team at Koalas (the charity run opportunity group for children with SEND) has moved into Swindon Borough Council to be part of the Early Years Quality and Inclusion team (EYQI team).

Following lots of very creative suggestions from parents and staff, a shortlist of possible new names for the Koalas sessions was drawn up. More than 170 responses to the survey the new name of "Explorers" was chosen. We would like to thank everyone who was involved in suggesting names and voting for them, the response has been overwhelming!

The Portage and Special Tots services have also moved into the EYQI team, along with the Explorers service, to form the new 'Specialist Early Years Centre'.

The Specialist Early Years Centre services of Special Tots, Explorers and Portage will continue to run as previously for this academic year while we finalise our plans for the future, making sure that the fantastic practice and support for families offered continues and evolves.

The links which will be developed between the Specialist Early Years Centre and the wider EYQI team will ensure that the support for children in the mainstream settings they attend alongside the centre is of the best possible quality. The new management structure will provide fantastic opportunities for strengthened partnerships between the specialist and mainstream provisions.

Referrals to the Specialist Early Years Centre services can be made by parents or professionals. If you would like to find out more about the services, or would like a referral form, please email SpecialistEarlyYearsCentre@swindon.gov.uk.

The Specialist Early Years Centre team are working to produce some more detailed information about the type of support offered by each part of the service, this will be circulated soon.

Current structure of the Early Years Quality and Inclusion Team (Academic Year 2021-22)

