

# SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 218  
MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2024

## A welcome from Alison Mcllwraith, the new Head of SEND



I am writing to introduce myself as the Head of SEND, as Lisa Savage, the previous Head of SEND has now left Swindon. I have worked in several local authorities in London in the SEND teams and I'm looking forward to working with Swindon colleagues and families.

The SEND landscape continues to develop with initiatives and all local authority teams are faced with an increasing demand for EHCP needs assessments. We are striving to ensure that our process is robust but ultimately that all children and young people who have special educational needs are given the support that they require to access the curriculum and flourish in their educational journey.

I look forward to visiting schools and educational settings in my new role and meeting as many children and young people as possible and to hear their experiences.

## World Suicide Prevention Day 2024

On Tuesday 10th September every year, it is World Suicide Prevention Day.

The theme this year is "Changing the Narrative". On this day, like every day, we would like to encourage everyone that talking about difficult feelings, including suicidal thoughts, doesn't have to be scary.

[The International Association for Suicide Prevention](https://www.internationalassociationforsuicideprevention.org/) website has resources with useful information. The Local Offer also has links that are worth accessing to keep the narrative open:

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20229/mental\\_health\\_specific\\_conditions/1533/getting\\_help\\_with\\_suicidal\\_thoughts](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20229/mental_health_specific_conditions/1533/getting_help_with_suicidal_thoughts)

## Please subscribe to the Local Offer YouTube channel here



# SIAS Drop In Sessions

The SEND Information, advice and support service have weekly drop in sessions during school term time. Pop into the central library if you have any questions about SEND, want to meet the team or just prefer to speak face to face!

Central Library

SN1 1QG

Every Wednesday - Term Time Only

12:30 - 16:30

### First and last SIAS

#### Drop-in of:

Term 1:  
4 Sept - 23 Oct  
Term 2:  
6 Nov - 18 Dec  
Term 3:  
8 Jan - 12 Feb  
Term 4:  
26 Feb - 2 Apr  
Term 5:  
23 Apr - 21 May  
Term 6:  
4 Jun - 16 Jul



SCAN ME

If any of our drop in sessions need to be cancelled or dates changed this will be communicated on our Facebook Page

**SIAS**  
SEND Information  
Advice & Support



## SEND Training Modules

The SEND Training Modules were launched in April 2021 and have been available to all people working in the Local Area with children and young people (CYP) in Education, Health and Social Care in Swindon since June 2022. The SEND Training Modules have now been updated to include modules on the proposed SEND reforms and five new modules of essential knowledge have been added to Level 1.

These new and updated modules have been co-produced with key partners representing parents/carers and families (SSFV), young people (STEP), as well as professionals working with CYP with SEND. We are pleased to be able to continue to offer you these SEND Training modules FREE OF CHARGE. There is an expectation that all professionals working with CYP with SEND will complete the SEND Training Modules to the appropriate level fitting with their job role, but ALL professionals should complete at least all Level 1 modules.

The SEND Training Modules have a tiered training system. Each module has a short quiz at the end to consolidate learning. They can be completed one module at a time, and one level at a time. It does not need to be completed all at once. If you would like to take up this offer, please contact Rachel Mann, SEND Inclusion and Training Officer: [rmann@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:rmann@swindon.gov.uk)