



Swindon Borough Council Adult Services' Working Together Plan - Easy Read

2024 - 2029

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Introduction to the plan by Experts by Experience Dan Eldridge and Charlotte Arnel



“It’s **important** for people with lived experience to be able to have their voice heard



The council needs to listen to us that’s why The Working Together Plan is important

We need to be involved in the important meetings and help to make the decisions.


“Co-production”




“Working Together”



The name **Working Together** is so much better – because ‘Co-production’ is such a **Jargon** word.

	<p>It was brilliant working on the plan. They listened to us – the people who use the plan need to listen to people too.</p>
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	<p>Most important – if you can't keep to your plan – tell the experts. We want to feel we're equal to everyone else".</p>
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Introduction to the plan by Sam Mowbray – CEO Swindon Borough Council



I am very happy to share Swindon Borough Councils **Working Together Plan.**



This plan shows that we want to **work closely** with people who live and work in Swindon.



We know that it is **important** to listen to people who will be most affected by the Councils decisions

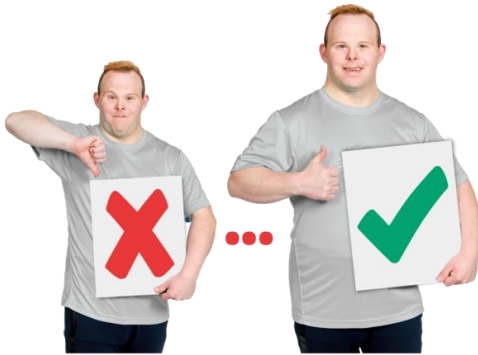


By following this plan we can make **Swindon a great place for everyone to live.**

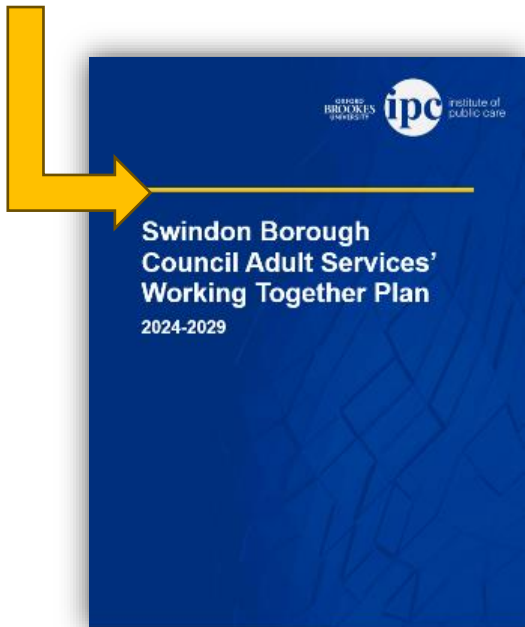


What is the Working Together Plan?

 	<p>Swindon Council knows it is very important that we work with local people and communities.</p> <p>Working together will help make sure we do things the right way.</p>
 	<p>We know it is important to work with local people when any Council decision could affect how people live their lives</p>



We know we need to get better at this.



The "Working Together Plan" is new for Swindon Council.

It will help change how we work with local people over the next few years.

	<p>Working together with local people and groups will become our normal way of working.</p> <p>It will be part of everything we do.</p>
	<p>Our aim is to focus on people's lives, not services.</p>





Lots of people helped to make the Working Together Plan

We would like to thank all the co-designers of this Plan, including:

- The Learning Disability Partnership
- Swindon Advocacy Movement volunteers;
- Unpaid Carers working at the Council;
- Residents of Fessey House;
- Adults with experience of mental health support in Swindon;
- Swindon's Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector;
- Swindon's Regulated Care Providers;
- Adult Social Care Council and ICB colleagues
- The Institute of Public Care, Oxford Brookes University

What the Working Together Plan hopes to do

 <p>Nothing about us, without us!</p>	<p>Our goal for working together is simple:</p> <p>Nothing about us, without us</p>
	<p>The 'Working Together Plan' is based on things that local people have told us are very important. These are called values.</p> <p>The 8 values are:</p>

<p>1</p> 	<p>“We are not just people with care needs, we are people with lives”</p>
<p>2</p> 	<p>“We are not less important than anyone else –we are just as important, and our thoughts and opinions matter”</p>

<p>3</p> 	<p>“We are experts in our own lives”</p>
<p>4</p> 	<p>“There is a lot of lived experience out there that we can share – we can help!”</p>
<p>5</p> 	<p>“We will feel heard, listened to, and know how we can get involved”</p>

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“We can let you know the **impact** decisions might have on us to **help you get it right, and avoid discrimination**”

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“Providers of care help us and **speak up for the people they work with**”

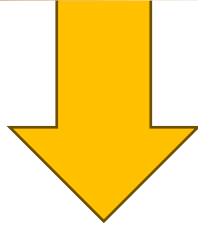


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Swindon Council will keep local people and services at the centre of all our decisions, and **do what we say we will do**

How will this be achieved?




Here is what working together with Swindon Council will look like




Local people and Swindon Council joining together



Local people being able to suggest their own ideas and give their opinions



Swindon Council listening to the wishes and opinions of local people



Local people are equal partners when Swindon Council is making decisions on your care and support



What will Swindon Council do differently?



To help Swindon Council work with local people, we promise to follow the following **rules**.

We think these **rules** give us a good way to work together.



1. Everyone in the Council will understand and be committed to working together.



2. The Council will be open and honest about the work they are doing, and planning to do.



3. We promise to share control on decision making wherever we can.

We will do this with local people and people who run services.






4. We will make all information we share easy to understand for people with different needs



5. We will work in a way where everyone is valued and respected

How will Swindon Council make sure they achieve the goals of the Working Together Plan?

	<p>This part of the plan tells you what Swindon Council are going to do to improve how we work together over the next 5 years.</p>
	<p>Continue the good work with the Swindon Learning Disability Partnership (LDP).</p> <p>We will learn from the LDP and plan how we could do more work like this</p>
	<p>The areas we want to improve in are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working Together every day 2. Promising we will work together 3. We will make plans to work with each other 4. Getting results

1. Working Together every day



We will tell everybody about the Working Together Plan.




We will make sure money and resources are available to help people work together better.

Staff will be given enough time to work together with people




We will find new ways to work with more people and more local community groups.

	<p>We will set up training for all Swindon Council staff.</p> <p>This is so they know how to use the Working Together Plan</p>
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	<p>We will set up a group that works together for the whole community.</p> <p>This group brings together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All teams from the council - Local Organisations - Local people with experience <p>The group is called a Strategic Working Together Board.</p>
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2. Promising we will work together

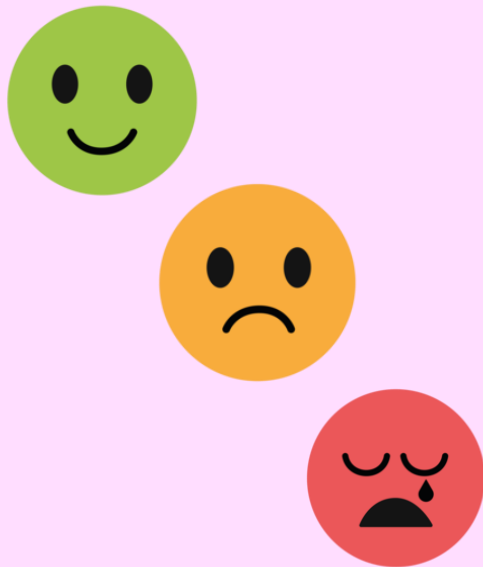
	<p>Swindon Council promises that whenever we work with people with lived experience it will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well planned • meaningful • the views shared will be used to make a decision or plan a project
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3. We will make plans to work with each other



Swindon Council will find the best way to thank and pay people who give their time and share their life experiences through working together arrangements.

4. Getting results from working together



Swindon Council will design a better way to check that local services are doing a good job.

To do this we will work with:

- People who have used these services
- Those who run the services
- Other organisations that are linked to them

This will help us see how we can improve the care we provide

How will we know the Working Together Plan is reaching its goals?

 <p>Nothing about us, without us!</p>	<p>The aim of “Nothing about us, without us” is achieved</p>
	<p>Swindon Council are working together well with local people</p>

When will Swindon Council start working together with us and when will I see a difference?

 	<p>Swindon Council are going to do lots of things over the next 5 years (from 2024 – 2029) to improve how we work with local people</p>
	<p>By the end of 2024, we will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched the Working Together Plan • Told everyone in the Council about the Working Together Plan • Started training to Council staff to make sure everyone understands how to work together

	<p>By the end of 2025, we will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made sure all teams are committed to the working together plan • Have delivered training for how to work together better to most staff • Started setting up the Working Together Board • Some examples of where we have worked together well in Swindon
	<p>By the end of 2026, we will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of examples of where we have worked together well in Swindon • More people from Swindon will be working with the Council • Started running the 'Working Together Board', and it is going well

	<p>By the end of 2027, we will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in place more ways that the community can work together with the council • Even more people from Swindon will be working with the Council
	<p>Between 2028 and 2029, we will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working together with people in everything we do