

**Director of Safeguarding and Support Services**  
**Director of Corporate Parenting Services**

Dear candidate,

I am really excited you are thinking about joining us in Swindon. Whether you are seeking the next level in your career in Children's Services or you are looking for a change, I promise you we have a range of opportunities here for you to consider.

Since Ofsted graded us 'Good' in 2019, the service has, like so many across the UK, seen some post-Covid challenges, both with the changing recruitment landscape and the desire for people to work in hybrid ways. We have also seen a rise in child protection work and demand overall.

But, we have risen to the challenge in Swindon, in so many ways. We have a new transformation plan for children, developed with our staff and managers this year, as well as a clear plan for skilled practice to be at the very heart of what we do. We have a new Integrated Adolescent Service that works with children on the cusp of care while we're also developing our multi-agency exploitation offer to reduce risk outside of the home.

We have the DfES and Hertfordshire Council as our partners in implementing the Family Safeguarding Model, with continued support to ensure all staff are trained and competent in motivational interviewing and group supervision. We are taking the time to really work with children and our families to ensure where we can, they remain together.

We are working hard as a Community Safety Partnership to tackle Swindon's challenges with youth violence and develop youth provision, a young person café and other local out posts where young people can feel part of their local community. We have developed a new commissioning service to ensure we are addressing the needs of the children we care for and the shortage of foster carers, as well as promoting the needs of our young people with complex needs who wish to access activities and recreational outlets.

Here in Swindon, the directorate has a wide profile of responsibilities, which gives plenty of opportunity to make an important difference to the quality of what we offer to our children and young people and what we can help them achieve. The Borough is home to around 220,000 people and 50,000 children and young people with a diverse range of backgrounds, interests and experiences. It is a growing, regenerating and thriving town and one which provides much opportunity to develop and further your career.

It is a time of exciting change here, with a new Labour administration committed to ensuring we tackle inequality and support local people into local opportunities and jobs. I feel it's a really good time to consider joining us – you'll work alongside me as the Corporate Director and the wider leadership team to really start to make a difference to the lives of children and young people in our borough.

I have not been here long as I joined as an Interim Director in January 2023, but I have already met and worked with some amazing staff in Social Care, Early Help and in Education. People in Swindon work extremely hard to ensure our children get the very best start and are working at pace to develop really effective high-quality child-focused social work practice.

If this resonates with you and you are as forward-thinking and child-focused as we are, I would really like to hear from you.

I wish you the best of luck with your application and I really look forward to meeting you.

Lisa Arthey

**Corporate Director: Children's Services**