



Kara Tointon



Kara Louise Tointon (born 5 August 1983 in Basildon, Essex) is an English actress, best known for playing Dawn Swann in the popular BBC soap opera *EastEnders*.

Tointon was born in Basildon in Essex, but shortly afterwards moved to Southend. Her younger sister Hannah is also an actress, best known for portraying Katy Fox in *Hollyoaks*. Her first proper acting experience came when she played the part of Brigitta in *The Sound of Music* at the Cliffs Pavilion. Shortly after that, her first paid job was as one of the children in the pantomime *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Her first appearance on television was as an extra in *EastEnders* in 1994 when she played a school friend of Sonia Fowler.

In 2004, Tointon appeared in *Mile High* and in December returned to her former *Dream Team* role as Gina Moliano until May 2005. Almost a month to the day that her last *Dream Team* episode aired, it was revealed to the press that she would be joining the BBC soap *EastEnders* as a new character, Dawn Swann. Tointon will be leaving *EastEnders*, along with co-star Ricky Groves in Summer 2009, at the end of their current contracts.

Tointon auditioned for *EastEnders* at the same time as Tiana Benjamin, Matt Di Angelo, Kellie Shirley and Charlie Clements all auditioned for their respective roles. She has also made appearances in the films *Just My Luck* and *The Football Factory*.

Tointon won the Sport Relief version of *Strictly Come Dancing* in March 2008. Her partner was former *Strictly Come Dancing* champion, Mark Ramprakash.