

Link Newsletter February 2022 - In the Spotlight...

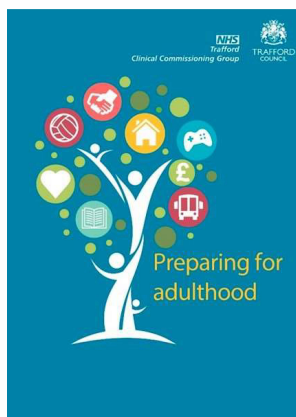
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Whilst working on developing the existing Preparing for Adulthood content we recognised that it was important to have relevant and easy to read information in place for parent carers, as well as the young people themselves, to help them navigate this journey in life.

The current pages on Trafford's SEND Local Offer are aimed at young people. As we continued to work on this information as well as information for professionals, a number of events were held with parent carers. These focussed on your lived experiences as parent carers and helped us to shape what you would like to see in terms of information.

Trafford's SEND Board and SEND Communication and Engagement Group provided steer to this work, with Trafford Parents Forum and Trafford Family Information Service supporting the delivery of the events. What you told us at these events is that going through the Preparing for Adulthood journey alongside your young person can be challenging for a variety of different reasons and that each family will experience this differently.

However in considering the four preparing for adulthood outcomes adopted nationally, we hope that we have started to provide you with some useful information.



A new set of pages for parent carers have been developed on Trafford's SEND Local Offer:

[Preparing for Adulthood from the earliest years](#) | [Trafford Directory](#)

Each page details services and useful information at different stages of your child or young person's life.

The concept of preparing for adulthood when your child is still very young might seem a bit strange. However even during a child's early years they are learning and building skills that will help them to live as independently as possible in their adult life.

Each child or young person will also learn independent living skills at different times and to different levels.

It is hoped that being able to see the progression of services as well as relevant information throughout childhood will help you and your child to prepare for adulthood more easily.

The pages are organised into the four Preparing for Adulthood outcomes:

- Independent Living
- Employment and Careers
- Friends, Relationships and Community
- Good Health

Have your say

We are not done with these pages yet! There are still things that need to be added but we want to hear your views about what we've done so far.

Your views on these pages are really important.

With your feedback we can further develop them to ensure that they have the right information for families, are easy to use and more accessible.

Here is a short survey that you can complete to let us know what you think:

[Preparing for Adulthood on the Local Offer - Trafford Council's Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#)

You can also give us feedback directly by calling 0161 912 1053 or by emailing

FIS@trafford.gov.uk.

SEND News

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)



Congrats to Nolan and Alex!

Nolan Barratt and Alex Heald joined Trafford FIS as part of the Kickstart Scheme. They are two young people who have been doing a great job within our team since they came to us in June 2021. Nolan is a young person with SEND. You can read about all the things they have been working on in previous editions!

Both Nolan and Alex were due to finish their Kickstart placements at the Council in December. For Nolan especially, he found the prospect of being without employment after being with us for the previous six months quite stressful. He told us how much he enjoys working and how he loves being part of our team.

Also, we would have missed both their contributions a lot. Which is why we're happy to say that starting January this year they have both been successful for interviewing and obtaining another job with us in Trafford FIS!

Cathy Sanders, who has been managing both Nolan and Alex, worked very hard with the FIS team manager and HR to make a business case for these two positions and everyone in the team was hoping that they would be successful at interview.

Looking forward over the next six months they both have roles and responsibilities to help promote and develop SEND Local Offer here in Trafford, through engaging with young people and families as well as creating fun and accessible video content.

Here's what they have to say their exciting new roles.

Alex Heald – SEND Video Project Assistant



So, I'm now on fixed term contract on the Family information Service working as SEND Video Project Assistant! I'm more than excited to be taking on this role and I want to make an impact before my time comes to a close and I'm off to university.

I will be making lots of videos about SEND sessions in Trafford and Manchester, I recently finished a video on Gorse Hill Studios and their Short Breaks sessions 11-18 by Sportworks

filming what they have to offer. The process from filming to editing was lots of fun and being there opened my eyes to the impact of SEN Sessions and I hope my videos going forward can help young people do something fun and experience new things. This video thing is new to me and I'm challenging myself to reach out to services and grow more confidence and improve the quality of my videos.

Recently we've just attended Play Factore's SEN Sessions which run on the first Thursday of each month. We toured their facilities and filmed a majority of what each of the sessions have to offer. It was a very nice experience and the environment they've set made it feel so welcoming, these sessions run from 6:30pm to 8:30pm giving more than enough time for children and young people to have fun in an inclusive environment. We did a lot of filming and interacting to showcase the activities available, we also collected feedback and interviewed a member of staff to talk about the SEN Sessions. All in all I believe this video will be great and hopefully someone can watch this and possibly consider checking out Play Factore as they've got a lot to offer.

We have a lot more sessions to attend and plan. I hope that these videos help open more eyes to the sessions available in Trafford and Manchester and help give parents and young people a better idea of what certain services have on offer!

Nolan Barratt – SEND Youth Voice Assistant



I am now the SEND Youth Voice Assistant for Trafford Family Information Service (FIS) on a fixed term contract. I really like having a job and wanted to stay on with the team. I have a job coach who will be helping me coming in March. I've had a job coach before, they watch me work and tell me if I'm doing something like talking too much or over people.

The job is about supporting services to hear the voices of children and young people with SEND. I've been able to give my experiences and get involved with activities. I can work with services and talk to other people doing the activities about their experiences. That should help develop the local offer by sharing what is good, or not.

For example, I went to Gorse Hill Studios with Cathy on Friday. There people were talking about how Covid has been affecting them, and we did activities where we wrote on sticky notes. Then we saw everyone's experiences and there were some videos that people had made about their lockdown experiences that we watched.

Me in lockdown – I was missing my friends and my girlfriend a lot. Even when lockdown stopped there was still social distancing. Most people seemed to have similar experiences. I couldn't see people and I didn't have a job so I was really bored. That was me in the lockdown – doing nothing all day and sometimes spending the whole day in bed. Though United Response were helping me during that time with interview practice and I used to go around the horse fields for a walk.

It was nice to meet the people at Gorse Hill Studios. I can take part in things with other young people and engage. I also did the same when we (Nolan, Alex, Cathy) went to Play Factore. I took part in the activities there too. There was a big slide, a trampoline with games on it and laser tag. It's good to be able to go out and do things again and see everyone.

The other part of the job is to maintain the social media channels for FIS and SENDIASS, which is what I did when I was on the Kickstart placement. Here are the social media accounts we look after. Follow or like us!

- [Trafford FIS Facebook](#)
- [Trafford FIS Twitter](#)
- [Trafford FIS Instagram](#)
- [Trafford SENDIASS Facebook](#)
- [Trafford SENDIASS Twitter](#)
- [Trafford SENDIASS Instagram](#)

Developing Trafford SEND - Strategy workshops

During December and January two workshops were held to discuss Developing a Joint Ownership of the SEND System in Trafford.

These workshops were facilitated by the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) and Joe Fautley, who is active autistic voice on Twitter and has co-delivered Autism and SEND training.

A number of people attended both workshops, including parent carers, commissioning, health, social care and education professionals.

The first of the two workshops brought people from across the SEND system in Trafford together and focussed on coming to a shared understanding of the current picture.

The second workshop built on the discussions from the December workshop and concentrated on working together to develop the new local SEND strategy.

Across both sessions it was highlighted that it was important that we hear and amplify young people's voices in this process.

Our former Kickstarters, Nolan and Alex attended both sessions to contribute a young person's perspective.

They also presented a powerpoint about the responses they had received from young people and their parent carers from a survey called: Tell us your views on Special Educational Needs and Disability in Trafford.

Questions covered a wide range of topics around how: the pandemic has affected young people and families; the help and support that is currently accessed in both school and elsewhere; what makes a service good; and what could be changed in Trafford to make it great.

It also asked young people themselves about how they feel they are listened to as well as what help and support they feel is needed to prepare for adulthood.

The survey was created online and Nolan and Alex promoted it over Trafford SENDIASS and Trafford FIS social media. It ran from 6 to 15 December 2021 and received 27 responses

Nolan said...

I enjoyed the workshops. I can remember promoting the survey out on social media and breaking it down into different ages and genders and ethnicities.

It was interesting to find out about everyone's experiences. That way we can improve the schools and the services. Got a list of the different help and support you access.

We went into different breakout rooms and worked on Jam Boards using virtual Post-It notes. I liked that and put my own experiences on there. I put down about my job coaches, supported internships and the kickstart scheme. I think everyone asked questions but I can't remember. I felt like they were listening to us.

Have your say and get involved

Get involved with BBC series

BBC Studios is making a new series with Chris Packham about the lived experience of autism for BBC Two. If you're autistic and would like to take part, please tell a little bit about yourself using the form at:

[Inside The Autistic Mind - Inside The Autistic Mind - Send - BBC](#)

You said, We did:

In October we created a quick [Link Pulse Survey - Trafford Council's Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#) asking for your opinions to the changes that have been made to the SEND Link Newsletter.

We received feedback from one person to say that they can't access the newsletter as a whole document.

You will now be able to download a PDF of all the webcontent pages that make up each edition on the [The Link Newsletter](#) | [Trafford Directory](#) homepage.

The [Link Pulse Survey - Trafford Council's Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#) is still open so you can give us your views any time!

Advice and Guidance

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

An update from the SENDIASS Service



Working throughout the global pandemic we, as a service, have never been busier. This period has been extremely challenging for all but, in particular, for children and young people with special educational needs and disability, and their families. The difficulties experienced by placements and services because of COVID has impacted on learning support provision, therapy support, structure, routine and behaviour for some families. However, we are hopefully now on a more predictable path. It is though, important to acknowledge how well you have done in getting through these unprecedented times. Please remember to look to your own mental health and wellbeing during the winter months, the changes in temperature and fewer hours of sunlight can have an impact on our mood at this time of year. Finding support may help you get through the next few weeks.

We are here to provide free, confidential, impartial advice and support for parent carers, children and young people age 0-25 in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who live in Trafford. Our friendly and flexible service offers a 'listening ear' as well as access to resources which can be found on our website sendiass.trafford.gov.uk . We are also knowledgeable about other support services and groups that serve Trafford residents and will happily signpost you to these as well as supporting you to navigate the Local Offer.

The team have been trained to offer high quality information and support relating to EHC matters, annual reviews, how needs are identified, support in placements, Tribunal and Exclusion. We can help you to prepare for meetings or even support you at meetings by arrangement, we can help you understand and complete paperwork relating to special educational needs and disability, help you to participate in decision making and, liaise with other services for you. We aim to work collaboratively with our colleagues in settings and other services to support you to resolve any difficulties. We can offer you advocacy support and help you to understand and exercise your rights. We hope our support will empower you to express yours, and your child or young person's, views and wishes. Our involvement with strategic groups within Trafford ensures that your lived experience and views are communicated with those who manage and provide the services in Trafford.

After support from our service you may be asked to provide some feedback on the quality of support we provided you with. We have received many lovely comments via our survey and we do appreciate you taking the time to give us this feedback. If there are any ways in which we can improve our service we are always interested to hear your views. They can be added to the survey which only takes a few minutes to complete.

We continue to communicate the very latest news and events both locally and nationally using our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media accounts. Please do give us a like and a follow to stay up to date.

Don't forget about our online referral form. It is now even easier to get in contact with us; this can be used at any time to make a referral to our service. Information and advice is also always available on Contact's website.

Trafford SENDIASS Website: sendiass.trafford.gov.uk Online contact form available.

Email: sendiass@trafford.gov.uk



Helpline: 0161 912 3150 9am-12 noon Monday to Friday. 24 hour answer machine service.

Energy Costs

You will have seen or read the news about the energy price cap rising in April 2022. The price cap is going up from £1,277 to £1,971 which will mean significant increases in our energy bills.

The government have announced a package of measures aimed at helping households with the cost of living. This includes:

- £200 off energy bills for domestic electricity customers. This will take place in October 2022 and will be paid back automatically by £40 per year over the next five years from April 2023.
- £150 off Council Tax bills in April for households in Bands A to D. This will not need to be paid back.
- A rise to £150 of the Warm Home Discount Scheme and the criteria to focus on those in fuel poverty. This will only affect energy customers in England and Wales.

The government have also promised a further £144 million of discretionary funding for local authorities to support households who need support but are not eligible for the Council Tax rebate.

There are also other government schemes and helpful schemes available, depending on eligibility:

Warm Home Discount Scheme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) – eligible households will get a one-off discount to their electricity bill

Energyworks | Trafford Directory – can provide home visits and provide free equipment to help make your home warmer and more efficient. They can also advise about switching providers and debt issues and can liaise with landlords or housing associations where necessary.

LEAP (Local Energy Advice Programme) | Trafford Directory – free energy and money saving advice service. Can also provide a free of charge in home advice visit and install simple energy saving measures, check to see if you're on the best tariff and help you find funding for other energy saving home improvements.

Trafford Support

Trafford Assist is the Council's local welfare assistance scheme to help residents in short-term acute financial difficulties. They can provide financial assistance for:

- Emergency help for food
- Essential travel expenses
- Emergency help towards gas, electric and water bills
- White goods and furniture

Application for food, household bills or furniture (egovhub.net)

The Trafford Assist scheme is to meet a one-off emergency need rather than ongoing expenses. Here are a few key local support organisations that you may want to contact before applying:

Citizens Advice Trafford | Trafford Directory – can help provide information and advice around legal, money and other issues. They will also refer to Trafford Assist where it is appropriate.

Community Response Hubs Trafford | Trafford Directory – can provide a range of support for families and households across Trafford.

See more at: Support with money matters | Trafford Directory

National Information

- Help with fuel and water bills | Contact – advice for families
- Energy saving tips | Contact – advice for families
- Online grants search | Contact – advice for families

Mental Health Campaigns and Resources

Children's Mental Health Week

This is a national campaign that is running 7 – 13 February 2022. It aims to help children of all ages – and there are lots of places where support and advice is available.

This year's theme for Children's Mental Health Week is Growing Together.

Growing Together is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow.

Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'.

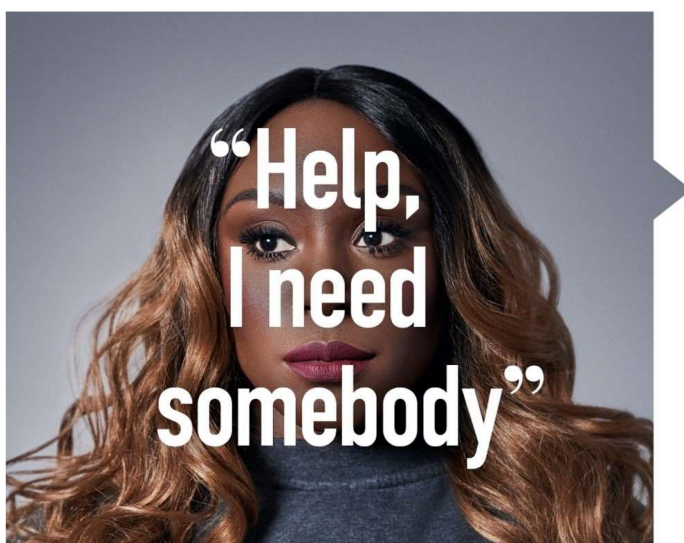
Check out their free resources for parent carers: [Children's Mental Health Week website.](#)

Or follow what is happening over on Twitter: [#ChildrensMentalHealthWeek](#)

Help Us, Help You - NHS England and NHS Improvement campaign

Aimed at adults, this campaign running between 17 January and 31 March 2022 encourages anyone experiencing feelings of anxiety, depression or other common mental health concerns to seek help through NHS Talking Therapies services (also known as IAPT- Improving Access to Psychological Therapies).

Anyone can experience feelings such as anxiety and depression and it is totally normal to ask for help. As the Beatles' lyrics say...



**The NHS is
here to help**

Feelings of anxiety and depression can affect us all. If you need help with your mental health, you can refer yourself, or your GP can refer you.

Let us help you get your feet back on the ground. Go to nhs.uk/help



Help us

help you



Children's Mental Health Week

7th - 13th of February

We'll be by your side.



Find **free, safe** and **anonymous** mental wellbeing support by joining **Kooth.com**



What's on Kooth in February

Find all of this & much more on **Kooth.com**



February 1

Discussion Board:
LGBTQIA+ History Month

February 2

Live Forum:
Resilience - How do we build it?
7.30pm to 9pm

February 7

Live Forum:
Relationships - Spotting a healthy one
7.30pm to 9pm

February 8

Discussion Board:
Growing Together

February 14

Discussion Board:
You've Got the Love

February 18

Podcast:
Let's Talk About Gender

February 18

Live Forum:
Learning - Styles and difficulties
7.30pm to 9pm

February 23

Live Forum:
Let's Talk About - Rare diseases and conditions
7.30pm to 9pm

Do you need support?

Contact - Listening Ear Service.

For families with disabled children.

You might be struggling emotionally and looking for strategies to help you cope. Or maybe you just need to talk to someone who understands the extra challenges you face and who can point you in the right direction to get the support you need for your family.

To help, we offer 1-1 telephone appointments with a family support adviser for parent carers looking for a listening ear, reassurance and practical and emotional support.

Making an appointment is simple: [Visit our Eventbrite page](#), choose the day (morning, afternoon or evening), and when you register choose the time slot you want. Appointments are regularly updated and are subject to availability.

Other National Support

- [MindEd For Families](#) – Resources to support parent carers for children and young people.
- [NHS Every Mind Matters](#) – supporting children and young people to stay mentally healthy.

Local Support

There are lots of organisations that offer mental health support, both locally and nationally. You might need different types of support at different times in your life. Sometimes it might just be about getting a bit of advice or sometimes problems are more serious or don't get better with self-help.

[Mental Health and Wellbeing for Children and Young People | Trafford Directory](#).

[Mental Health and Wellbeing for adults | Trafford Directory](#).

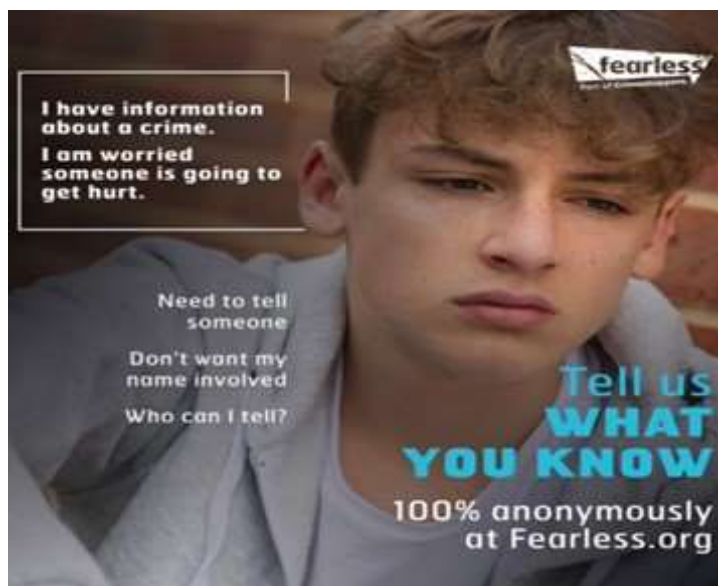
Find out more on [how we meet mental health needs in Trafford and the Thrive model](#).

Virtual Mental Wealth Hub

A single point of access which will link and signpost to information, advice and guidance relating to anxiety and mental health needs in Trafford.

[Virtual Mental Wealth Hub | Trafford Directory](#).

Fearless Campaign



Following the tragic events in Stretford, where a 16-year old boy was stabbed and lost his life, the Council in partnership with GMP have commissioned a campaign - **Fearless** - targeted at young people throughout the Trafford area.

Those with concerns about people carrying knives or other weapons, or involved in crime can report 100% anonymously via fearless.org. Nobody will even ask for names.

Find more information [here on the Fearless website](https://fearless.org).

Local Offer

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

New Personal Assistants(PAs) Guide on SEND Local Offer



We received feedback from parent carers who were looking to hire a Personal Assistant with their Personal Budget. They told us that the handbook they had been given on how to do so felt very overwhelming to read.

So Sarah Bradley (Local Offer Advisor), Holly Ryan (Social Care Reviewing Officer) and Richard Johnson (Complex Needs Social Care Manager) had a look at the paper guide and reviewed the content.

They have made an easy read summary guide that still includes all the legal points and information as and when you need them. The existing handbook was also made into web content so that it could be more easily navigated and updated if even more detail is required.

Before these new webpages were published they obtained feedback from parent carers who had previously used the handbook as well as Trafford Parent Forum members.

They have now been launched and made live on Trafford's SEND Local Offer:

[Personal Assistants](#) | [Trafford Directory](#)

This page breaks down what a Personal Assistants (PAs) and [Direct Payments](#) are.

It covers how to get a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for any personal assistants you hire as well as more detailed information about [Employing a Personal Assistant](#) | [Trafford Directory](#).

It gives advice about how to get insurance and where to find more detail about about [Employers' Requirements | Trafford Directory](#). This section also includes an example timesheet and goes into all aspects of the PAs employment such as tax and national insurance, wages and annual leave.

It also gives an example contract, what to consider and further detail about [Being a good employer | Trafford Directory](#).

The page also covers the different options around payment to you and your personal assistant.

Here is a link to the full revised guide: [Employing a Personal Assistant for your Child: A Parent's Guide | Trafford Directory](#).

See also: [Personal budgets overview | Trafford Directory](#).

Updated Short Breaks information

The [Short Breaks | Trafford Directory](#) page on the local offer has been updated on Trafford's SEND Local Offer:

Targeted Short Breaks

It now includes a new form where you can apply for your short breaks online, with the aim of reducing the amount of time needed to get a short breaks assessment.

[Short Break Online Form \(trafford.gov.uk\)](#)

The assessment helps the Short Breaks team identify with you the kind of activities your child enjoys and their needs.

Commissioned Short Breaks

This information has remained the same. Sport Works weekend groups or SENSE holiday groups are called Commissioned Services. As the Local Authority fund these activities directly, please fill in this form in order to access them:

[Short breaks application form \(trafford.gov.uk\)](#)

Universal Offer

This information has also not changed. To access the youth groups run by Sport Works and Gorse Hill Studios that are not Commissioned Short breaks, just contact them directly.

If you find any other short break or activity provision on the local offer that you are happy to self-fund, then you can contact them directly.

Our SEND Local Offer Advisor is available to help you find the activities and support you need.

SEND Local Offer Advisor update

Trafford's [SEND Local Offer Advisor](#) | [Trafford Directory](#) is part of the Short Breaks team and Trafford FIS team.

Sarah Bradley has been in post since November 2020 and has helped many families to access short break activities. She also carries out short break assessments for those needing targeted short break provision.

With an in-depth knowledge of local services, groups and activity provision for families with SEND, she has been praised by parent carers and professionals alike.

Some of you may be aware that Sarah's daughter has [ASD](#), severe learning disabilities and scoliosis. She attends a specialist education provision and accesses a short breaks package via Manchester.

Recently her daughter has been diagnosed with epilepsy, which comes with its own set of challenges on top of everything else.

After receiving that diagnosis and subsequent hospital admissions, Sarah felt very isolated. She did not know much about epilepsy.

Having looked up a few things online and getting to talk about it with other parent carers she found that actually there are lots of children and young people with epilepsy. However it is not widely talked about.

So... **Let's Talk Epilepsy.**

Find out more in the next edition of the Link Newsletter!

Sarah here!

As it is Valentine's Day next week, a little fact for you all.

St Valentine is not only the Patron Saint of Love, but also Epilepsy!

Here's a couple of things I found helpful:

- [ESUK | Facebook](#) (Epilepsy Sucks UK Facebook Group). I'm having to step back from this group for now as there are sometimes videos shared of children fitting and I can't watch them at the moment, but I found this group to be very useful, being able to talk to other parents and not feel so alone.
- [Epilepsy Action | Epilepsy information and advice](#)

Trafford Parent Forum

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Hello from Trafford Parents Forum!



Trafford Parents Forum

It is hard to believe we are now into February 2022. We hope the New Year has started well for you.

Our Facebook Closed Group

Our Facebook, Closed Group continues to be a source of support for our Parent Carers of SEND children and young people in Trafford. It is a great place to find help and friendship. You can find the group here: [Trafford Parents Forum Closed Parent Carer Group | Facebook](#)

The closed group is a useful, safe space for sharing the good, the bad and the in-between. If you are looking for advice from other parent carers, who are going through similar things, our parent carers are experts by their own experience and have a wealth of support to offer. If we find things cannot be resolved via that platform, we can sign post and offer further advice of where to turn.

Joining Trafford Parents Forum

If you are a parent with a child or young person who has SEND, you can also join our mailing list and become more involved with the Forum, you do need to be a member and in order to join Trafford Parents Forum you just need to complete the membership form via our website here: <http://www.traffordparentsforum.org/index.php/join-us/>. Once you're signed up, we will add you to our mailing list where you'll receive our weekly mail, letting you know of anything SEND related that's happening locally or further afield. We will also let you know of any events that we are running, or any changes that would affect you and your family.

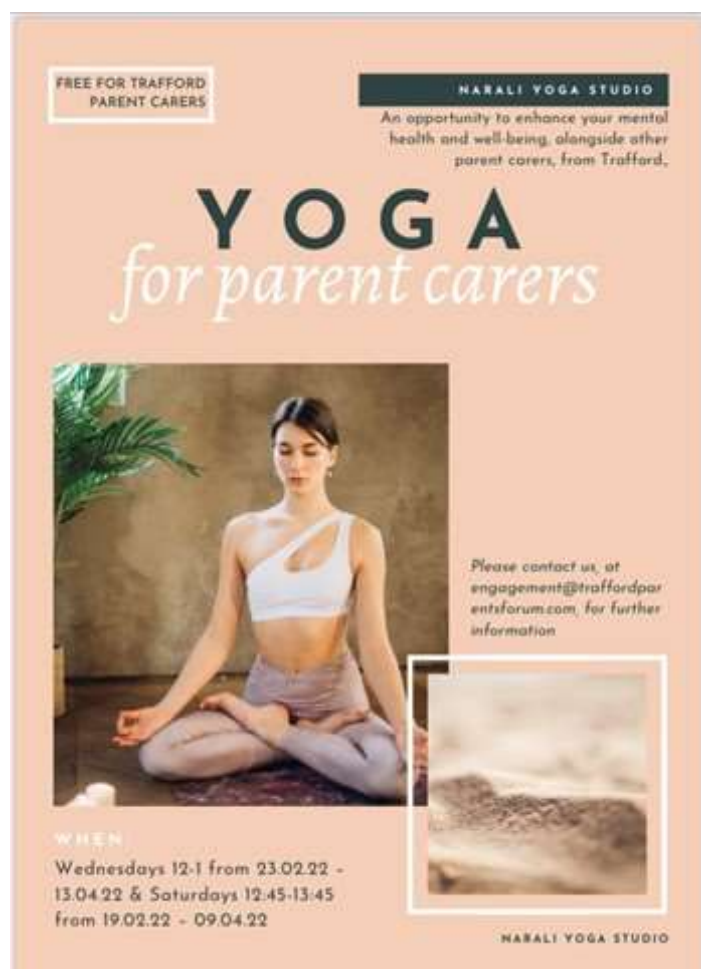
If anyone needs help joining the forum and our social media pages, please email sonia.mcdonagh@traffordparentsforum.com and she will get you signed up ASAP.

Well-Being & Mental Health

Trafford Parents Forum are extremely excited to announce the launch of some exciting opportunities to promote the mental health and well-being of our parent carers. The opportunities will be free to access as a parent carer in Trafford.

How do massage, yoga, Zumba, psychotherapy and well-being walks sound? If you are interested in hearing first about the opportunities available, please contact us on engagement@traffordparentsforum.com and we can add you specifically to our well-being mailing list.

Places will need to be reserved for the events via Eventbrite, the links will be shared through our social media and newsletters. We can't wait to see you there!



The Annual & COVID Surveys

Thank you so much to everyone who completed these. Some families were lucky enough to win some bowling vouchers, for taking part. Huge thanks to Namco Funscape for their kind donations of these vouchers, lovely plush toys and glow sticks. They were so well received!



Stronger Together Empowering Parents (STEP) Update

Here at STEP we are part way through our second round of Mentor training, enjoying getting to know our new mentors. We have a strong team of wonderful volunteers at STEP with a wide range of skills and experience which helps them to be really effective mentors for parent carers in Trafford.

We are hoping to return to the office after the half term break and look forward to incorporating some more face to face sessions into the support we offer.

If you would like more information or are struggling and are not sure where to turn, please feel free to get in touch with us at step@traffordparentsforum.com. We can always offer a listening and understanding ear and can help you to make a plan to move forward.



Just leaves us to say, have a great half term and we look forward to catching up at one of our well-being events.

The Trafford Parents Forum Team

What's On

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Holiday Activities



Simply Cycling

Week of 14 February, Various times and prices, contact for details

Wythenshawe Park, M23 0PH

Simply Cycling is back up and running! Come try our bikes, suitable for all!

Sessions start on the hour and are now 45 minutes with a cost of £3 per person.

Because of the limited numbers, please use the online booking system for weekend and school holiday sessions. This allows us to regulate numbers and guarantees your place. Arrival without booking may result in disappointment if we are full.

Holiday Activity Youth Club

Monday 14 February, 11:00am- 3:00pm

I AM Centre, 114 Chester Road, Stretford, M32 0HL

10-18 Holiday Activity – Big Youth Club & Snacks. 11-3 pm. Fees apply, contact the centre for details and to book. See [website](#) for more holiday activities and events taking place at the centre.

Our Club (Additional needs sessions)

Tuesdays, 4.30pm to 6:30pm

The Hideaway, M31 4EL

Our Club is just for children with SEND (additional needs) and their families. We work hard to make the Hideaway as friendly, quiet and accessible as possible for anyone with additional needs and our team are on hand to help with this. The session is for children with diagnosed and undiagnosed additional needs.

Football Fun Factory Half Term Fun (Inclusive)

Monday 14 to Wednesday 16 February

Blessed Thomas High School, Urban Road, WA15 8HT

Do you have a young one (4-12 years) who loves football?

Joe Quigley is one of the coaches that worked with Calm Connections and did some great sessions for young people around emotional support and physical activity.

Joe now has this awesome business with sessions over half term. I know mine would have loved this!

Everyone Can Gaming Sessions

Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 February, 4:30pm- 7:30pm

School Road, Sale, M33 7XX

Join us at our Technology & Gaming centre for one of our much loved gaming sessions for disabled children! We have various games and control methods to ensure everyone can game! So, if your disability holds you back from gaming, we will match technology to your needs to ensure you can play.

The Smartest Giant in Town

Thursday 17 February, 1:30pm Relaxed Performance

The Lowry, Salford Quays, M50 3AZ

A Fierylight & Little Angel Theatre co-production

A musical adaptation of the bestselling book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

George wishes he wasn't the scruffiest giant in town. So when he sees a new shop selling giant-sized clothes, he decides it's time for a new look: smart trousers, smart shirt, stripy tie, shiny shoes. Now he's the smartest giant in town . . . until he bumps into some animals who desperately need his help – and his clothes!

Pre Season Friendly

Sunday 20 February, 9:00am-10:00am

National Football Museum, Cathedral Gardens, M4 3BG

Enjoy our museum during quieter and more informal mornings. This time is ideal for neurodiverse adults and children. There will be opportunities for visitors to get a taster of the museum and build confidence to explore all we have to offer. Gallery sound levels will be minimal with ear defenders and a quiet room available.

Autism Friendly Play Session

Sunday 6 March 2022, 9:15am- 11:15am

Adventure Forest, Textilose Road, M17 1WA

Adventure Forest is a family business set up and run by two sisters (Jenna and Kelly) who wanted to create a play centre that was fun and exciting for children with a touch of luxury for adults. Here at Adventure Forest we pride ourselves on having fresh homemade food, friendly and helpful staff and the newest exciting play equipment. We have worked extremely hard to make adventure forest as fun and exciting as possible for children of all ages and abilities to play in a safe environment. Join us on the **first Sunday of every month** for our dedicated Autism Friendly sessions.

CYP Hide Out Youth Zone Inclusion Session

Sunday 6 March 2022, 11:00am

HideOut Youth Zone, 1 Queens Avenue, Manchester, M12 5PX

This is a great opportunity to come and try out the wonderful facilities at the HideOut Youth Zone. The venue offers a climbing wall, boxing gym, music suite, salon, art room, rooftop football pitch and sensory room.

Autism Therapy Conference 2022

Friday 1 April 2022

Haydock Park Racecourse, Warrington Road, WA12 0HQ

We invite those with a common interest in keeping up to date with research, evidence based-best practice and sharing resources, thereby helping autistic individuals and the wider community

Join us on 1 April 2022 at Haydock Park for an exploration of current thinking about therapy practices and methods in autism.

Henshaw's Open Day

Tuesday 12 April, 10:00am

Henshaws Specialist College, Harrogate

We are delighted to be able to welcome you to an in person Open Day on Tuesday 12 April 2022.

Find out more about what makes Henshaws College a great place to learn, grow and live.

This is an ideal opportunity to visit for students considering joining us in September 2023, as the application process does take time.

If you are looking for a place in 2022, then you are still very welcome to join us – our transitions team will be able to provide you with the advice and guidance needed.

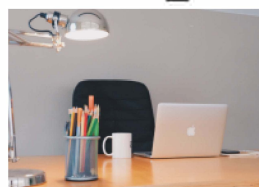
Services

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Find below some new services on offer locally!

Free Cricket Sessions with Super 1s!

Enjoy Cricket?...

A photograph of a young man in a blue shirt swinging a cricket bat. Another person is visible in the background. The image is part of a large red banner that covers the bottom half of the page.

Join the Super 1s

Free cricket sessions!

Make new friends!
All disabilities welcome | Ages 12-25

Every Thursday from 6-7pm (starting on 4 November)
Woolston Learning Village Holes Lane, Warrington, WA1 4LS
If interested in disability cricket contact Owen Williamson:
Owen.williamson@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk

Cheshire Cricket in partnership with Warrington Wolves Foundation



LORD'S TAVERNERS
Giving young people a sporting chance

Registered Charity No. 306054 | OSCR No. SC046238

Counselling and Family Centre Support

The Counselling and Family Centre in Altrincham are offering Free online support group to Parents and Carers of children with disabilities or SEN

A FREE Online Support Group
Our New Wellbeing Support Group
for Parents and Carers
of Children with Disabilities and SEN.

You are not alone.
Let's talk about anxiety, stress and self-care,
share your experiences and tips with each other.

These are free drop sessions,
Every Monday 10:30am to 12pm during term time
Contact alison.hambleton@thecfc.org.uk

cfc | The Counselling
& Family Centre



Scope's 13 week Pathway to Employment

Charity Scope are offering 13 weeks of support to help you find a job. Interested? [All the details are here.](#)

Individual Pathway of Support (IPS) is a pilot programme designed for disabled people looking for tailored employment support.

You could be looking for your first job, or to get back into work, education, training, or volunteering. We will work together to help you achieve your goals.



The Association of Disability Driving Instructors

The Association of Disability Driving Instructors - helping people with physical disabilities, special educational needs and those with hearing difficulties. The Association is an independent, not for profit Community Interest Company (CIC) set up in partnership with [Driving Mobility.](#)

- Providing a “one stop shop” to help disabled people get impartial advice about how to start to learn to drive, how to return to driving after accident or illness and how to keep driving safely.
- Creating an easily accessible online register of specialist driving instructors.
- Helping specialist driving instructors develop their abilities by facilitating training and education with recognised qualifications relevant to the sector they are working in.
- Introducing an accreditation scheme backing up the training and education, to give evidence of driving instructors’ experience and expertise.

Association of Disability Driving Instructors | Trafford Directory