

The Link

SEND Newsletter

Summer Edition 2018

Welcome to The Link – our termly newsletter to keep parents up to date on all things SEND.

As things heat up for Summer, keep your cool with all the latest info about what's going on here in Trafford.

See what's there for you if your child is under 5 in our "Spotlight On... Early Years"

Services served up this edition: Trafford's Asthma Nurse, Advocacy Focus and Funtastic Fridays inclusive youth group.

You might have seen us buzzing around like busy bees – in this edition you'll find updates from the Trafford Parent Forum, Local Offer Advisor and FIS Outreach Team!

As always, see the Activities and What's On section for events happening over the next few months - from funky festivals to gaming sessions.

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www.trafford.gov.uk/thelink

Spotlight On: Early Years



**TIME FOR
TODDLERS**

From when they are born up until the age of five, your child's early years are an incredibly important time in their development.

Having the opportunity for happy, active, fun and secure experiences at the start of life will help to support your child's development, care and learning needs in their future.

Here you will find out about some key services that are available to families with a baby or young child, including information on extra support that is there if your child has a special educational need or is disabled.

Free Early Education

The "Free Early Education entitlement" is another way of saying that your child will be able to access a number of hours free with a registered childcare provider, depending on their age and your family circumstances.

During this time your child will be cared for in a safe environment and be given an opportunity to learn and socialise with others through play.

All childcare providers in Trafford who offer families free early education places are registered with Ofsted. Providers also have to sign up to our local agreement to be able to deliver the free hours.

All providers that sign up must have a Special Educational Need Coordinator (SENCO) and have regard to the SEND Code of Practice and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

Free hours for 2 year olds

If your child or family meets certain criteria you will be able to claim for up to 15 hours per week free with one of our approved childcare providers. This will be from the January, April or September after their second birthday.

These free hours are aimed at families who might not otherwise have the opportunity of being able to afford their child going to a childcare provider, or have other needs.

You will be eligible for these hours if your child has an Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

[Click here for more information, full eligibility criteria and to apply online](#)

Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

This is the main benefit that is available for families with SEND, and is there to help meet some of the extra costs of having a disabled child. Any ill or disabled child may be able to qualify, even those who don't have a diagnosis.

Families describe getting DLA as life-changing. However, take up is low and millions go unclaimed.

For more information:

[Contact A Family: Guide to claiming DLA](#)
[Contact A Family: DLA Don't Miss Out](#)

Spotlight On: Early Years

15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds

All children can get up to 15 hours per week free at an approved childcare provider, at the start of the next term after their third birthday.

[Click here to apply online](#)

Disability Access Fund (DAF)

Childcare providers now have access to a fund for any child who is in receipt of both Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and the free hours for 3 and 4 year olds

This works out at equivalent to £615 per year, per child.

It is there to be used to help improve the care, play and learning opportunities for your child whilst they are accessing their free hours.

30 hours for 3 and 4 year olds

To make childcare more affordable to working parents the government introduced this scheme in September last year. For eligible families this extends the number of free hours available to up to 30 hours per week.

For more information and to apply for 30 hours free childcare, please visit the [Childcare Choices](#) website.

Note that this application is done via central Government, not with us here at the local authority. Any problems applying for, or

accessing your childcare account, please contact HMRC Customer Interaction Centre on: 0300 123 4097

Early Years Graduated Approach and Early Years SEND Funding

All schools and settings are expected to follow a graduated approach to identify and meet the needs of their children. Most children will make good progress with additional support in the setting. For children with very complex needs providers can apply for grants:

- **Transition Grant Funding** This helps the school or setting to support the child by gathering information about their needs, establishing strategies and training staff during an induction period.
- **Early Education Support Grant** is funding for additional support so a child can attend their early education place.

If you are a parent and are worried about your child's progress, your first step should be to speak to your child's school or early years' provider.

Choosing the right childcare

The Family and Childcare Trust have some really useful information in helping to choose the best type of childcare for you and your family:

See more:

[5 Steps to Choosing Childcare](#)

Spotlight On: Early Years

All childcare providers in Trafford are listed on the Trafford Directory. Every provider is expected to set out how they meet the needs of children with SEND in their care.

It is good practice for them to have this available as their **Early Year Local Offer report** which you should be able to find on their individual listings on the website.

If you are having significant difficulty in finding suitable childcare - Trafford's Family Information Service offers an enhanced childcare search.

[Childcare section on the Trafford Directory](#)
[Additional help finding childcare – FIS](#)

Health Visiting Service

Health Visitors offer support to families who have children with additional needs. This can be on a 1:1 basis in the family home or in a mutually agreed setting, such as a local Health Clinic. Sometimes this will be a joint meeting with other professionals involved.

Health Visitors offer guidance and advocacy as well as emotional and social support. This can include supporting parent carers through the process of diagnosis, discussing developmental concerns, sleep, diet and behaviour.

Community Nursery Nurses and Health Care Assistants work as part of the team and may also be involved in supporting children and

families. Your Health Visitor can assess your child and refer them on to other appropriate agencies or services depending on their needs.

Children's Centre Services

In Trafford, there are two [Early Help Hubs](#) offering children's centre services to families with young children - one in [Partington](#) and one in [Stretford](#). They can offer family support, information and advice on a range of topics and can signpost on to specialist services.

Speech and language support in Early Years

If you have concerns about your child's speech and language you should speak with your health visitor or your early years setting first. Many early years settings have a Communication Champion who you can speak to.

They may decide to use the Wellcomm toolkit to assess your child's speech and language. This assessment helps identify children with potential speech and language difficulties and provides customised activities that can be carried out with your child to help them improve. We are rolling out a training programme to get professionals and all early years settings trained up in the use of this tool and we aim to have everyone using it by early 2019.

See more on Trafford's Local Offer:

[I'm worried about my child's progress](#)
[What to expect from your Early Years provider](#)
[Helping your child at home in Early Years](#)

SEND News



SEND Tribunal – National Trial Single Route of Redress

In a previous edition of the LINK Newsletter we covered the processes involved when you are unhappy with decisions made by professionals as part of your Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan.

This process goes up in stages from disagreement resolution to mediation and finally to the SEND Tribunal.

See more on Trafford's Local Offer:

[Disagreement Resolution, Mediation and SEND Tribunal.](#)

Up until now families have only been able to appeal the educational aspects of Education, Health and Care plans at a SEND Tribunal.

The Government have recently announced a national trial called the Single Route of Redress which extends the powers of the First-tier Tribunal (SEND Tribunal) to make recommendations about the Health and Social Care aspects, in addition to the educational aspects, when making a SEND Tribunal appeal.

What does this mean?

If you are unhappy with a decision not to issue an EHC plan, or with the special educational content or placement in the plan, you can

make an appeal to the SEND Tribunal. This trial now gives you the opportunity to also request recommendations about the health and social care content of the plan at the same time. This will mean the Tribunal will take a more holistic, person-centred view of the needs of the child or young person.

If the SEND Tribunal makes a recommendation about health or social care elements of an EHC plan, this is non-binding. The local authority and/or health commissioner is generally expected to follow such recommendations, but they are not legally binding.

Where they are not followed, the reasons for not following them must be explained and set-out in writing to you and to the Department for Education through the evaluators. If they are not followed, you can complain to the [Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman](#) (LGSCO) or [Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman](#) (PHSO) or seek to have the decision judicially reviewed.

This will be a two-year trial and will apply to decisions made, or EHC plans issued/amended from 3 April 2018.

See more on Trafford's Local Offer:

[National Trial – Single Route of Redress](#)

Advice and Guidance

Independent Support update:

There are some changes happening with Trafford Independent Support. Here, Trafford PYPPS helps us answer some questions:

1) What is happening to the Trafford Independent Support Service?

Independent Support was always a time limited programme which provided additional support for young people and parents whilst statements were transferred to EHCPs. This will finish on 31st July 2018.

2) What about the families that Trafford Independent Support is currently working with?

They will continue to work with families until 31st July 2018. They are sending out letters at the end of June to all the families they are currently working with and have worked with in the past explaining that the service is finishing. The letter will signpost them to the Parent and Young Peoples' Partnership Service (PYPPS).

3) Will there still be support for statutory assessment and Annual Reviews?

Free and impartial advice and support will continue to be available from PYPPS. They have always had a statutory responsibility to provide support on a wide range of SEND issues, including the EHC process for children, young people and parents.

Parent and Young People Partnership Service (PYPPS):

Telephone: 0161 912 3150
(9am to 12pm, Monday to Friday)
Email: pypps@trafford.gov.uk
Facebook: Trafford Pypps
Twitter: @Traffordpypps
www.traffordpypps.co.uk

Article by Geraldine English – Parent and Young People Partnership Service Manager

Local Offer Advisor update:

Since I started my new role in March I have been familiarising myself with what is available in Trafford that supports children and young people with SEND and their families.



I have been visiting local activities to get a clearer picture of accessibility, flexibility, ability range of children, staffing ratios, group sizes, size of provision, types of activity on offer and the environment such as the noise level.

Advice and Guidance

There are too many to name individually, but collectively they can meet needs across a wide age range and a significant range of needs. Some of these clubs include weekend and holiday activities.

I have also been meeting with local support groups to find out what they can offer to carers and families. This includes many areas such as advice on entitlements, emotional support, employment and training. From this I am able to identify gaps in service provision for future service development.

Early Help

Additionally, I have started to complete early help assessments with families. This assessment is completed with parents carers on an individual basis to help to identify the child's support needs and his/her strengths. The assessment aims to find the best way to meet both the child's needs and recognise the needs of the carers.

Following the assessment I assist the families to explore activities, short breaks and services within Trafford which the parent carer and child might benefit from. Children/young people I have worked with to date include those with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, autism, ADHD and those who present with challenging behaviour.

I obtain these referrals from the Multi Agency and Assessment Team (MARAT).

Article by Rhiannon D'Ambra, Local Offer Advisor

Multi-Agency Referral and Assessment Team (MARAT)

Telephone: 0161 912 5125

Email: marat@trafford.gov.uk

FIS Outreach update

The Outreach team have been very busy attending activities and events around Trafford since the last issue. Here is a quick update of what we have been up to.

Training

Carla and Saima attended some training which provided an introduction to Autism Spectrum Conditions. They both found the training really beneficial and it has raised their awareness and understanding of Autism.

As part of the training they also got to meet some lovely people from United Response who offer support to adults 18+ with learning disabilities in the Trafford area to access employment opportunities including job coaching and in-job support. It was great to hear the young adults' experiences in education, work and life in general.

For further information on the support offered by [United Response Supported Employment Service](#) please check out their listing on Trafford's SEND Local Offer.

Advice and Guidance



Parents Evening – Manor Academy

Rhiannon and Sharon attended the parents evening at Manor Academy to offer information and guidance to parents/carers and young people.

Several parents were looking for social activities for their teenagers and commented that they were finding it more a struggle now that their children are older. Sharon and Rhiannon supported by helping to match them to suitable activities via the SEND Local Offer and signposting them to services and organisations aimed at young people.

Some parents were feeling a little anxious about next steps for their children once they leave secondary education. Sharon and Rhiannon advised about the various options open to young people including supported employment, internships and further education.

They also discussed services such as Connexions that offer advice, information, guidance, support and personal development for all 13 to 19 year olds in Trafford (up to 25 years old for disabled young people).

Transitions Evening – Brentwood High

Rhiannon and Sharon were invited to attend a transitions event at Brentwood High school in May. The event brought together a wide range of services and providers such as Seashell Trust, Sports Works and Together Trust to name just a few! The aim was to give parents

carers an idea of what options are available to their children after Brentwood.

Sharon said ‘it was a great opportunity for networking with other services in addition to supporting parents carers with finding activities for their children and signposting them to suitable services’. More specific enquiries included locating private speech and language therapy services and transport for a young person on a college placement.

Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) – Young people’s views.

Rhiannon and Carla are busy visiting various secondary schools around Trafford to conduct a survey with young people who have EHC plans. They are keen to hear more about young people’s experiences of the EHC plan process and how they feel about their involvement in annual review meetings. Watch this space for a summary of the findings in the next newsletter edition.

Summer Crafts

Finally our Outreach team will be delivering a number of craft activities at various venues around Trafford. Come join us in painting and collaging sea creatures in our Under the Sea theme!

Article by FIS Outreach Team (Carla Godwin, Sharon Keogh and Saima Hyder)

SEND Local Offer

A Parent's Point of View...

In September 2014 education reforms came into effect for children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND). A new assessment system and funding was implemented, modifying how SEND children and young people were to be supported.

There was a considerable change in SEND at the time, and I don't remember coming across this key resource: [Trafford's Local Offer](#).

The Local Offer provides information about schools, EHC plans, family activities, support services and organisations in every local authority area. Trafford's Local Offer turns out to be a mine of valuable local information for parent carers and young people - you should save it as a bookmark on your devices!

Parent carers tend to ask family and friends for SEND advice about local services; it is a great way to share information peer to peer.

The Trafford Directory website, where the Local Offer is published, is another way to find out about services in your local area. It is also an opportunity for parents to give feedback to Trafford on these services - parental involvement shaping services.

With a young SEND person in my family I was really pleased to see the Local Offer has a dedicated Youth area, my son has found some social and training opportunities for his gap

year which we would not have heard about by word of mouth.

The website has a listen and translate mode called 'browsealoud' which I have used when I am busy and just need to hear the information. Training and events coming up in the area have been advertised in good time so I have been able to attend.

It's everything you need to know in one place.

Trafford's SEND Local Offer Videos

The challenge is now to make more parents aware of it, because many still haven't heard about the Local Offer, so Trafford's SEND Communication and Engagement Group have been tasked with promoting it.

Response from Trafford organisations to get involved has been great. They have all taken on board the importance of highlighting the Local Offer and will be featured in three short promotional videos.

More news about the exciting Video Project will feature in the next Edition!

Hopefully by raising the profile of the Local Offer, parents will share what they find, to benefit other SEND families of children and young people because it's a great resource to have at our disposal.

Article by: Trafford Parent.

Trafford Parents Forum



Trafford Parents Forum

Exciting times here at Trafford Parents Forum, with so much going on!

Our weekly drop-in sessions are going really well. This half term we've moved to Love Coffee, in Stretford Arndale and you'll find us there every Thursday between 11:30 and 13:00 until the end of term. There is no need to book, just turn up, relax and we'll get you a drink!

We celebrated Carers Week, with a cake for Parent Carers at our drop in on Thursday, 14th June, lots of discussion took place about being a parent carer in Trafford.

Last half term we hosted our first evening drop in session, at Costa Coffee in the Trafford Centre. It was a brilliant evening and we chatted way over time. We've arranged the next evening drop in session at Nandos in the Trafford Centre between 18:30-21:00. Again, don't need to book, just turn up!

Most people come along by themselves to the drop in sessions and everyone is really friendly. There's lots of good conversation and information sharing. Look out on our Facebook page for the next evening meet up date.



The IPSEA training we held on Tuesday 22nd May was a huge success thanks to the fantastic trainer, Jo and the input from parent carers. The insight, experiences and questions from parent carers were all so valuable to the learning on the day. Our next IPSEA training will be held in the New Year, and if you haven't already, join the Forum to hear about our training days and workshops.

In early May, we worked with the Trafford Conservation Volunteers to host a family event at Sale Water Park after school. It was a brilliant opportunity for families to explore the Waterpark and get creative outdoors. There were some beautiful wind chimes and rocks painted, as well as lots of plants planted! We are hoping to work together again soon.

Why not come down to Golden Hill Park in Urmston and help us celebrate the NHS 70th Birthday on Saturday 7th July 2018 12-5pm? We will have delicious cakes, activities and plenty of information and chat from the TPF Team. We look forward to seeing you all there.

There's constantly things going on and we'd love parent carers to get involved.

All our events are available to view on our [Facebook](#), or give us a call and we can let you know about what is going on: 0161 872 0183. If you wish to become a member of the Forum you can find an [online membership form on our webpage](#). We hope to see you soon!

Article by Rebecca Blinkhorn – Engagement and Development Coordinator, Trafford Parents Forum

Leisure Activities and What's On

Events and Activities

Epic Genie Drama Workshop

Saturday 30 June 2018, 4pm to 6pm

Art with a Heart invite you to explore Stan, their new play which explores communication, friendship, identity, the family unit... and dinosaurs. Bilingual performance (BSL)

Genie Family Cycling Day

Saturday 30 June 2018, 1pm to 2.25pm

Wythenshawe Park, M23 0AB

Genie Family events are for deaf, hard of hearing or CODAs and their families.

Summer Craft Activities

Many dates in July and August 2018

Various venues across Trafford

Join Trafford's FIS outreach team in painting and collaging sea creatures in our Under the Sea theme, or just ask us about the local offer.

Accessible Festival

Sunday 1 July 2018, 1pm to 6pm

Bury Athletics, BL9 9FX

Fully accessible festival of music and activities for families, adults and children

NHS 70th Birthday Party

Saturday 7 July 2018, 12pm to 5pm

Golden Hill Park, M41 5AR

A celebratory local community event, being attended by Trafford Parents Forum

Trafford Live

Sunday 8 July 2018, 11am to 4pm

Trafford Town Hall, M32 0TH

Fabulously free festival open to all

Frogtastic in the Park

Tuesday 10 July 2018, 6.15pm to 9.30pm

Walton Hall Gardens, WA4 6SN

Frogtastic is widely recognised as one of the UK's Premier 'inclusive' club nights for people with learning difficulties and their friends

Everyone Can – Gaming Session

Wednesday 11 July 2018, 4pm to 7pm

School Road, Sale, M33 7XX

Join us at our Technology & Gaming centre for one of our much loved gaming session for disabled children!

GoTriSeashell – Triathlon

Sunday 15 July 2018, 10am registration

Seashell Trust, Stockport, SK8 6RQ

Seashell Trust's triathlon for people with complex disabilities and special needs returns

Schools Out For Summer BBQ:

Funtastic Fridays SEN Youth Club

Friday 27 July 2018, 5pm

Cheeky Cherubs, Urmston, M41 9BP

Celebrate summer with games and BBQ

Summer Holiday Fun at Jump Space

Mondays/Thursdays/Fridays in August

Stockport, SK3 0BJ

Trampolining, soft play and sensory fun!

Training, Workshops and Conferences

The Autism Show

Friday 29 and Saturday 30 June 2018

Event City, M41 7TB

National event for autism

Leisure Activities and What's On

Urmston Job Fair 2018

Wednesday 4 July 2018, 2.30pm to 6.30pm

Urmston Library, M41 0NA

A wide range of opportunities on offer.
Accessible venue

Trafford Job Fair 2018

Friday 13 July 2018, 12pm to 3pm

Emirates Old Trafford, M16 0PX

A wide range of opportunities on offer.
Accessible venue.

Family Meet & Greet: Coffin-Siris Syndrome Conference

Friday 26 October 2018, 5pm to 7pm

Cheeky Cherubs, Urmston, M41 9BP

This is a meet and greet for families before the Coffin-Siris Syndrome conference.

Coffin-Siris Syndrome Conference 2018

Saturday 27 October 2018, 9am to 5pm

Chill Factore Conference Room, M41 7JA

Chance for patient families affected by Coffin-Siris syndrome to come together to learn more.

Kidz to Adultz up North

Thursday 8 November 2018, from 9.30am

Event City, M41 7TB

A full programme of free CPD and topical seminars

Holiday Schemes

A lot of families have been asking about what holiday schemes are available over Summer. Many holiday schemes have a deadline in order to apply for a place. Unfortunately, some

of these will have already passed before this edition is published.

In the following editions, we hope to have information further in advance, wherever they are available – e.g. Summer schemes published in the Spring Edition.

Here are some schemes that are taking place in this Summer to give you an idea on what's available. Most of these take place each year.

Leisure for Autism: Holiday Scheme – at Pictor Academy. Ages 4-16yrs.

Henshaws Residential Holiday Club – at Children's Adventure Farm. Ages 12 to 17yrs

Together Trust Holiday Clubs - contact them for details. Up to 19yrs.

CADS School Holidays – inclusive multi-sports and leisure activities. From 5-25yrs.

Holiday Schemes (Childcare)

Holiday schemes (childcare) in Trafford are available to view on the Trafford Directory. Please check on their listings to view either their SEN Information Report (Schools) or Early Years Local Offer Report (Preschool).

If you know about other local holiday schemes, suitable for families with SEND, let us know at: FIS@trafford.gov.uk or 0161 912 1053.

Services



Trafford's Asthma Nurse

My name is Jane and I'm the lead asthma nurse for the Trafford Children's Community Team.

I work closely with others in the team to support children with asthma all over the borough of Trafford.

I see many children in their own homes and also in our nurse led clinic to provide support, advice and education around childhood asthma.

During patient contacts I provide advice around medication, check inhaler technique and provide patients with an asthma action plan.

Once under our care the child and family have access to the children's community nurses for further support and advice, we can also visit the child at home if they are having asthma symptoms.

My job is very rewarding especially when I see my patients symptoms improve and they are able to enjoy better quality of life, this can be just being able to do more exercise, have a better night's sleep and improved school attendance.

Parents can self-refer to our service if the child has a diagnosis of asthma; we also have a Facebook page found at [Trafford Children's Asthma Service](#).

My working hours are 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. The children's community nurses are available Monday to Sunday, 8.30am to 10pm inclusive of bank holidays. If you'd like any further information about our service please call the Children's Community Nursing team on 0161 934 8333.

Article by Jane Redgate, Asthma Nurse.

advocacy
focus

New Service in Trafford Helps People with Health or Social Care Issues

Do you have a health or social care issue, or feel like you're not being listened to?

If you are struggling with a health, mental health or social care matter, you may benefit from the help of an Independent Advocate from Advocacy Focus.

Who are we?

We are a registered charity providing independent advocacy to residents of Trafford; we help you say the things you need to say to the right people and empower you to find your voice when working with health services or social services.

Services

Our Independent Advocates are there to help and support you during times that may be stressful or confusing. We regularly make a difference to the lives of people from across the North-West, helping those affected by ill mental health, social care challenges and caring responsibilities.

We are free, confidential and completely independent of health and social care services and local authorities. We work with you and listen to you to secure the outcome that matters to you most.

Our Services

Are you still with us? We hope so. Advocacy can be confusing but is a very vital service working for people who often may not have anyone else to help them or who may find things difficult to understand.

Our Advocates are kind and compassionate people, who know a lot about legal terms and the inner workings of legislation to help you understand your rights and even help signpost you to other services you may not be aware of. Our services cover a broad spectrum, including:

- **Mental Health** – we help people who are sectioned in hospital who, without an Advocate may have no one to support them or explain their rights to them in a way they understand. We visit people on mental health wards and help them with meetings about their treatment and release.



Independent



Free



Confidential

- **Mental Capacity** - we protect and empower those who lack mental capacity to become more involved in decisions about their care. This can include someone who resides in a care home and suffers from a mental health issue such as dementia or Alzheimer's that greatly restricts their ability to understand and make decisions.

- **Care Planning and Support** - We also provide support under the Care Act 2014 for anyone undergoing a care assessment. Our Independent Advocates can help you make important decisions about your care and support plans, helping to communicate your views, wishes or feelings.

- **Health Complaints** - we support people to make complaints against the NHS. Making a healthcare complaint can seem daunting or confusing, and sometimes you may not understand the process or the response you have received. We can help you through the process and attend any resolution meetings with you.

Our Advocates are multi-skilled across many areas of advocacy and support. **To find out if you or a family member could benefit from an Independent Advocate, call us on 0300 323 0965 or speak to an Advocate online now at www.advocacyfocus.org.uk.**

Article by Sally Young, Advocacy Development Manager

Services

Funtastic Fridays Inclusive Youth Club

[Funtastic Fridays SEN youth club](#) is based at Cheeky Cherubs community centre In Urmston, Manchester.

We opened in October 2016 and have gone from strength to strength.



The youth club runs every Friday between 5pm and 7pm (term time only) for children who have additional needs, and siblings are also welcome.

During the time at the youth club we run lots of activities/workshops to keep us busy and the children can socialise while having their Tea.

Activities include: quiet space/sensory room, Pool, table tennis, x-box games, film nights, disco, sensory activities, karaoke, roof top terrace, BBQs, trampoline, Lego sessions, craft

activities, cosy corner, café, tuck shop, darts, card games, bingo nights...



It is also a chance for parents to meet other parents and for children to have lots of fun/make new friends in fun in a safe and friendly environment. The sessions cost £2.



Article by Clare Owens, Cheeky Cherubs