

The Link

SEND Newsletter

Spring Edition 2019

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

Spring is in the air and we've got another packed edition for you.

We shine a Spotlight On the Trafford Autism and Social Communication Pathway (TASC), share the news about this year's Let's Talk SEND Conference for young people and meet a new face in Advice and Guidance.

Find out the latest from Trafford Parents Forum, Trafford PYPPS, Outreach and Short Breaks.

See Activities and What's On for events and opportunities to learn new skills, then check out other great services from Empower You, Green Academies Project and Autism friendly sessions at Manchester Museums.

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www.trafford.gov.uk/thelink

Spotlight On: TASC - Trafford's Autism and Social Communication Pathway

Here in Trafford we have developed a new Trafford Autism and Social Communication (TASC) pathway.

We wanted to shine a 'Spotlight On' the pathway in this article as part of improving our communications to families.

We attended a Trafford Parents Forum event on Thursday 7 February 2019 at the Sale Life Centre to listen to the concerns of families and give out further information.

We took away your comments from this event to help us ensure this new pathway will be the right pathway for Trafford families.

From Old to New

TASC replaces the old pathway which you might have heard called the Neuro Development Pathway, or ND Pathway. This old pathway was no longer working for the families of Trafford.

It was taking far too long for families to get a formal diagnosis, as the old pathway was underfunded. This led to a backlog of children and young people on the waiting list.

So, at a time when you, as parent carers, have been most in need of support, it was not always there.

We want to apologise for this and we want to put it right.

Fixing this for families

We are doing two major things to make sure that children are diagnosed and families are supported as quickly as possible. First, we are working to clear the backlog. Second, we have introduced the TASC pathway.

There is currently a waiting list of around 240 children. If you are on this waiting list, you will receive a letter from us at the end of this month. We are pleased to say that we have secured some extra funding to help us employ more staff and look at additional places for assessments to take place.

All this will take some time, but we ask families to bear with us. We will be working through the waiting list in the order that the referral was originally received. Many children will have been seen by September and the vast majority of the backlog will be cleared by December.

We know there has been some confusion about the period between the pathways. At the end of last year some families had been told that the old ND pathway was closed and that the new TASC pathway was not yet open.

Spotlight On: TASC - Trafford's Autism and Social Communication Pathway

This caused understandable concern for families thinking they could not access any pathway to diagnosis following the end of the out-of-date ND pathway. Whilst this was down to miscommunication, we know that we should have acted quicker to clarify and hope this will clear up any confusion.

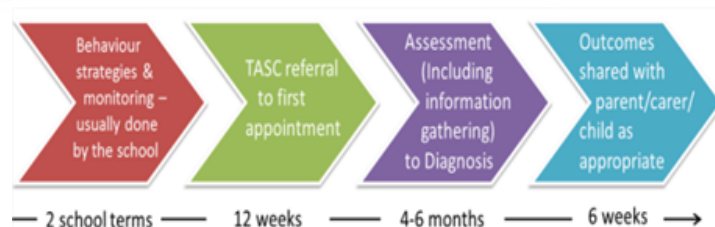
There had been some delay in providing training to SENCOs, meaning there was a period between October and December where the old pathway had stopped accepting referrals but SENCOs were still being trained on the new pathway.

We want to clarify that the TASC pathway was open during that time and the decision was made to have families join this new pathway. Whilst there was some delay until all the SENCOs were ready, it was still quicker for families to join TASC rather than join the old pathway at that stage.

What is the TASC Pathway?

The new TASC pathway brings significant improvements for families in Trafford.

It allows a plan to be put in place straight away to meet the child or young person's needs without requiring a formal diagnosis.



It is part of a wider Greater Manchester initiative and Trafford is one of the first areas to implement this.

If you have concerns about your child's social communication needs you should first speak to the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) at your child's school or nursery. They can help develop a plan which will include using agreed strategies to support your child or young person straight away. The plan will typically be put in place for around 2 school terms, with regular reviews.

We are asking families to speak with their SENCO in the first instance because this is the person who is best placed to implement immediate support for your child or young person. Please be assured that your SENCO is not going to act as a gatekeeper.

If your child is not in education or is home educated you should speak to your GP instead in the first instance.

If your child is not yet in school or nursery you should speak to your Health Visitor.

Spotlight On: TASC - Trafford's Autism and Social Communication Pathway

If there are still concerns after support has been put in place for 2 terms your SENCO can make a referral to the Trafford Autism and Social Communication (TASC) team.

The referral can also include supporting advice from a specialist such as an Educational or Clinical Psychologist, a Speech Therapist or a Community Paediatrician.

Once a child or young person is accepted on to the TASC pathway, an Assessment Action Plan will be made to work out the next steps. Following this an assessment will take place.

Children who are not in school or whose needs do not present in school or at an early years provider

One of the first stages of support may include an Early Help Assessment. This should be completed with you by a professional who knows your child's needs best. This is useful where you are facing multiple challenges as a family, or where your child's needs are not presenting themselves at school or nursery.

SENCOs have been trained to not dismiss parent carer concerns if their child's needs are not presenting at their school or early years provider.

If your child is already being seen by a Paediatrician, Speech and Language Therapist (or other professional) and concerns about social communication or autism are raised, then that professional should seek consent from you to contact a SENCO.

If a school is refusing to provide interventions, then another professional can make a referral to TASC for advice. Someone in TASC can also contact the school to discuss the issues but they will need your consent to do so.

Frequently Asked Questions

Working with Trafford Parents Forum we have developed a list of [frequently asked questions raised by parent carers](#) about the TASC pathway.

See more on Trafford's local offer:

[Trafford Autism and Social Communication Pathway \(TASC\)](#) for information about referral, assessment and diagnosis,
[Role of the SENCO](#) information page

Article by Eli Edwards. Thanks to Jo Gibson, Head of Integrated Commissioning, Sarah Butters, SEND Communication and Engagement Lead and Paula Lee, Strategic Lead for Complex Needs at the CCG.

SEND News

Let's Talk SEND 2019

On Thursday 7 March 2019 pupils from six Trafford schools and young people from Pure Innovations gathered together at the Life Centre in Sale to have their say on a variety of issues.

The event was planned with pupils from Manor Academy who helped choose the format of the day and the workshops. They also helped run the event helping to 'meet and greet', register guests and compere the event.

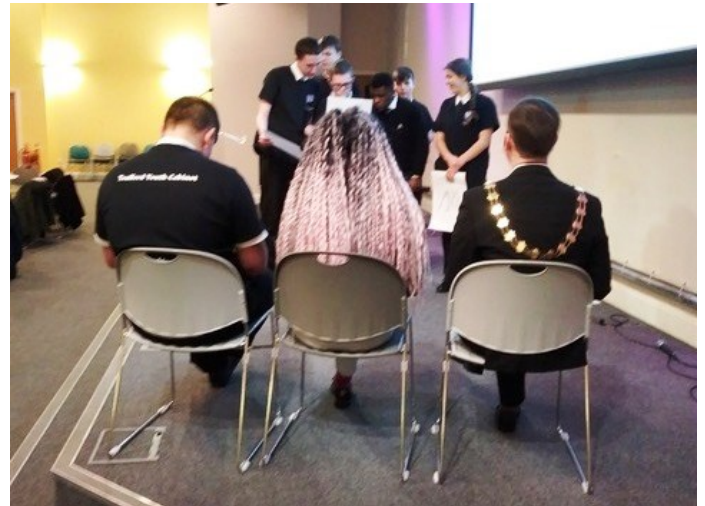
First up was a choice of workshops on sleep, being inclusive, social media and being safe on public transport. Once they had fed back on their workshops to the big group it was time for a well earned break with soft drinks and snacks.

The highlight of the day, for many, came after the break: The Manor Academy All Stars sang, played piano and the drums which certainly got the crowd rocking.

Next was an inspirational speech from Harry who talked about his supported internships with Pure Innovations.

The main workshop was to create a

political party for Trafford, complete with a logo, manifesto promises and a slogan. Each group pitched to a panel including The Mayor of Trafford, a pupil from Manor Academy and a member of Trafford Youth Cabinet.



This left just enough time for a quick workshop on Capital Funding before a delicious buffet lunch.

At lunchtime the young people had chance to browse stalls from:

[Healthwatch](#), [Kooth](#), [Connexions](#), [UA92](#), [Trafford FIS](#), [United Response](#), [Trafford College](#) and [PYPPS](#).

Thanks to everyone who helped make it such a good day, especially the pupils at Manor Academy who helped plan and run the day so well.

Article by Mark Bailey, Advocacy and Engagement Officer

Are you a Young Person aged 11-18?

Get involved!

Check out the [Youth Cabinet](#) for more info.

Advice and Guidance

The **Information Advice and Support (IAS) Programme** is a national government initiative that started in June 2018.

The programme seeks to ensure that in every area children and young people with SEND and their parents/carers have access to impartial and free information, advice and support. It is made up of several strands:

New Minimum standards for all IAS services in England. In Trafford the IAS service is called Trafford Parent and Young Peoples Partnership.

[Trafford Parent and Young People Partnership Service \(PYPPS\)](#)

Telephone: 0161 912 3150 (9am to 12pm)

Email: PYPPS@trafford.gov.uk

They are expected to ensure the service is meeting these minimum standards and Ofsted will review this when they undertake their SEND Area inspections.

The [National Minimum Standards](#) have been published.

An [easy read version of the standards](#) is available.

Additional Funding to review what impartial and free information, advice

and support is currently offered in a local authority, and for planning to seek improvements over time.

Trafford PYPPS has been successful in their bid for 2019/2020 and will be looking to improve the information they produce on their website and on social media.

We will be also setting up a Steering Group, or advisory body, which will include representatives from service user groups such as parents, young people and representatives from education, social care and health. They will be monitoring the minimum standards to make sure they are being met and helping develop the service.

We are also going to look at developing the service for post 16 young people, as an EHC Plan can now cover up to 25 years old.

We will give further updates on our progress with this in future newsletters and on our website / social media platforms.

A National Helpline which is provided by Contact for parents and carers in any part of the UK with a disabled child aged from birth to 25. The free helpline number for Contact is: 0808 808 3555.

Article by Geraldine English, Trafford PYPPS Manager

Advice and Guidance

Introducing... Jackie Tarpey! SEN Consultant in Autism and Social Communication for SENAS.

The main purpose of the SENAS team is to **advise and support settings and schools** in meeting the needs of children with SEND.

See more on Trafford's Local Offer
[Special Educational Needs Advisory Service \(SENAS\)](#)

Our SEN consultants offer advice to school staff in their specialist areas. Here you can meet our SEN Consultant in Autism and Social Communication. Take it away, Jackie!

"I started work in Trafford in September 2017 and thanks to the welcome I have had from my colleagues, the schools, and the families I have met I already feel really settled.

Before I came to Trafford, I was a teacher in another borough for a large number of years (not going to say how many!)

Firstly I worked in Mainstream Primary schools, and then in a Specialist School for autistic pupils. For the last 5 or so years, I worked as the school's Outreach Lead Teacher.

For many years I have been really passionate about working with schools to help them to include the autistic pupils in their care, so this really is my dream job.

My days are really varied! I can be attending an annual review, observing children and giving advice to their teachers, then delivering after school training to staff all in the same day. I am trying to send emails to schools telling them about regular autism friendly events they can pass on to families.

I still have an awful lot to learn - I am new to Trafford so am still trying to learn how everything works so I can help schools to support autistic children and young people.

I am sure I will meet a number of you at different events - perhaps at something for [World Autism Awareness Week](#), which runs from 1-7 April this year!"



Article by
Jackie
Tarpey,
SEN
consultant.

SEND Local Offer

Trafford Short Breaks

The Short Break offer is for children aged five to 18 years old. The short breaks provide a fun and social environment for them whilst giving their parent carers some respite from their caring role.

Currently Sport Works provides this service for five to 11 year olds and Together Trust provide the service for 11 to 18 year olds.

Sessions are run on a weekend during term time and on some weekdays during school holidays.

For eligible families these sessions are free and are accessed through an [online application form](#).

Short Breaks review, good news

These services are reviewed every three months. At our last review and in speaking with Sport Works it was clear that demand, especially during the

Keep an eye out next issue!

Information on Trafford's Virtual Short Breaks service will soon be available on Trafford's Local Offer

See current [Short Breaks Information and Advice Page on the Local Offer](#)

See more about Short Breaks providers on Trafford's Local Offer

[Sport Works](#)

[Together Trust](#)

Easter and Summer holidays (2018) was very high and so not every family could access this short break.

Previously Sport Works delivered short break sessions on two days per week of the school holidays.

Following the review, and in response to your feedback, we are pleased to say that this has now been increased to three days per week.

Extended offer - Sport Works!

This Easter, Sport Works will be delivering sessions on Monday 1 April to Wednesday 3 April 2019 and Monday 8 April to Wednesday 10 April 2019.

Over the summer holidays, Sport Works will now be offering 14 days, though the actual dates are still to be confirmed.

At our next review, if Sport Works are still in demand for these sessions then three days per week will continue to be offered in the next academic year.

Article by Kate Campbell, Commissioning Support Officer

SEND Local Offer

Family Information Service (FIS) Outreach Update

Our Outreach team have been busy attending lots of sessions & activities across Trafford.

SEND Parents' Forum – Heyes Lane Primary School



In January we had the pleasure of meeting some parent carers at the SEND Parents' Forum. We helped them find out about the Trafford Directory, in particular the local offer, and we gave them a guided tour of the website. They had the opportunity to ask questions about local services and activities, plus give their feedback about the services on offer in Trafford.



Parents' Evening – Delamere School

We were delighted to return to Delamere School to meet with lots of parent carers as they attended their children's parents evening. Parent carers had the opportunity to find out more about Trafford's local offer and our very own Link newsletter as well as

taking away some of our fab freebies.

Our Outreach Officer enjoyed hearing all about children's interests out of school and supporting parent carers with finding new activities via the Trafford Directory.

What's next?

In April the Outreach team are looking forward to visiting the 'Songlines' session at Limelight, Old Trafford.

'Songlines' is an exciting creative project for young people on the Autistic Spectrum (aged 8-13).

Together with Manchester Camerata's musicians and artists, the young people will create a series of musical tracks and pieces of artwork which will be shared with family and friends.

See more on Trafford's Local Offer

[Songlines](#)

Songlines will be relaunching on Saturday 27 April 2019 and continuing on a weekly basis.

It is advisable to register your interest as places are limited.

*Article by Carla Godwin, Family Information Service
Outreach Officer*

Trafford Parent Forum

5th Birthday Awards Ceremony

It's party time at Trafford Parents Forum this year, the Forum is having its fifth Birthday. We can't believe where the time has gone and how much we've achieved!

To celebrate Trafford Parents Forum's fifth birthday, we are hosting an awards evening on **Tuesday 26 March 2019**.

The awards are for individuals of all ages who have contributed to supporting SEND families in their community and make a difference to someone else's life. The awards are also for organisations and individuals who regularly go above and beyond in their support for SEND families.

We are delighted to announce that we will be joined by the Deputy Leader of Trafford Council Cllr Catherine Hynes, Executive Member Cllr Jane Baugh and Trafford Council's Interim Corporate Director of Children Services Cathy Rooney to

help us celebrate and to present our awards to the lucky winners.

The TPF Team would like to invite you to join us for a fantastic evening. You can [book at Eventbrite](#). We look forward to seeing you there.

Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) Workshops

One of the benefits of having a parent carer forum is the opportunity to work in partnership to create opportunities for parent carers to have access to support, training and workshops that parent carers may otherwise not be able to access.

Last year we were approached by a Trafford parent carer who was interesting in bringing a group of likeminded parents together who were interested in knowing more about Pathological Demand Avoidance*.

*What is Pathological Demand Avoidance?

PDA (pathological demand avoidance) is a behaviour profile within the autism spectrum.

Further info can be found at the [What is PDA? page](#) on the National Autistic Society website



Trafford Parent Forum

TPF worked closely with Ngozi and the PDA Society to arrange a workshop for Trafford Parent Carers. What a successful workshop!

Within the first week of publishing the event we had to issue more tickets, and, by the week before the workshop, we had a waiting list.

The workshop was delivered on Friday 15 March to a packed room of parent carers and everyone who attended said how amazing the workshop was and how needed it was in Trafford. Some thoughts from the attendees:

“This training was truly helpful. The trainers were knowledgeable, experienced, empathetic and engaging. It was refreshing to be in a room with other parents who just ‘get it’.”

“That workshop was a revelation and meeting everyone was great! Never felt so understood!”



“Thank you so much to Trafford Parents and Carers for organising this. There is such a need for greater understanding and support from professionals in education and healthcare. More training for everyone isn’t the solution but it will certainly help”

“Thank you to TPF for co-ordinating this event and Ngozi for initiating the initial enquiry”

[Trafford Parents Forum](http://www.traffordparentsforum.org)
www.traffordparentsforum.org
Telephone: 0161 872 0183

The workshop was such a success we will be running a second event in the summer term. Sign up to become a member of Trafford Parents Forum to be the first to hear the next date.



Trafford Parent Forum

Are you interested in a workshop or setting up a support group?

TPF cannot lead on all areas but we can support and facilitate an individual or a smaller group to set one up.

If you are interested and need help give us a call on 0161 872 0183 or by email at hello@traffordparentsforum.org

Weekly Drop Ins

Don't forget we are still running our weekly drop in session at the Life Centre in Sale - we've had so many new faces come along, as well as familiar ones, and you can still get a Max Card from these drop ins too.

You are welcome to come along with a friend or family member and there's lots to keep little children entertained. We get the drinks in, you just turn up.

We meet every Tuesday between 10am and 12pm at The Life Centre, 235 Washway Road, Sale, M33 4BP.



Consultation Corner

[Trafford Carers Strategy Consultation](#)

Take a look at the draft strategy and give your feedback by **Sunday 31 March 2019**.

[Autism Act 10 years on](#)

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Autism Act in England. The Government is going to review its autism policy this year. The National Autistic Society (NAS) want as many autistic people and families to engage in this survey. Feedback by **10pm on Sunday 7 April 2019**.

[Trafford SEND Capital Consultation](#)

We are keen to hear your views about where you feel we should invest the SEND special provision capital fund and would particularly welcome feedback from parents and young people. Feedback by **Friday 26 April 2019**.

Leisure Activities and What's On

Holiday Activities and Events

Manchester Info and Support Day

Tues 26 March 2019, 10.30am to 2pm

St Thomas Centre, M12 6FZ

Learn more about support services, grants and information available. Meet Family Fund and other organisations.

CADS Multisport Holiday Programme

Tues 9 and Wed 10 April 2019

Tue 16 and Wed 17 April 2019

Tue 28 and Wed 29 May 2019

Seashell Trust, Stockport, SK8 6RQ

Holiday events open to young people aged 5-25 years.

Everyone Can Easter Special

Wed 17 April 2019, 4pm to 8pm

School Road, Sale, M33 7XX

To celebrate Easter we are showing a screening of Hop, Easter crafts and Bonnet competition and of course, one of our much loved gaming sessions!

Coffee morning for parents and carers of children with ASC

Wed 17 April 2019, 10am to 12 noon

Together Trust, Cheadle, SK8 1JE

Meet other parents/ carers over a cup of coffee and to get some advice from the experienced staff at the Together Trust.

Circus Starr

Wed 8 May 2019

Torkington Park, Hazel Grove SK7 6AA

We bring all the fun of the circus to children and families that may have found this difficult in the past.

Coffee morning for parents and carers of children with ASC

Wed 21 May 2019, 10am to 12 noon

Together Trust, Cheadle, SK8 1JE

Meet other parents/ carers over a cup of coffee and to get some advice from the experienced staff at the Together Trust.

Coffee morning for parents and carers of children with ASC

Wed 12 June 2019, 10am to 12 noon

Together Trust, Cheadle, SK8 1JE

Meet other parents/ carers over a cup of coffee and to get some advice from the experienced staff at the Together Trust.

Accessible Festival – Save the Date

Sunday 28 July 2019, 1pm to 6pm

Bury Athletics Track, Bury, BL9 9FX

Fully accessible festival including Music and activities for adults and children (and their families) with disabilities.

Leisure Activities and What's On

Why not learn something new?

Gorse Hill Studio Creative Community

Gorse Hill Studios, M32 0PS

Music and creative arts programmes,
national qualification: The Arts Award.

Autistic Animation Group

Thurs, 4.30pm to 6.30pm

Altrincham Open Studios, WA14 1EJ

Work towards an Arts Award, equivalent
to GCSE and A Level.

Project.INC 11-19 Art Curriculum

Term Time Tuesday to Friday

The Hat Works, Stockport, SK3 0EU

Students can study for Arts Awards or
work towards a GCSE.

Venture Arts Bronze Award Arts

Mon, 10am to 12 noon or 1pm to 3pm

Venture Arts, Hulme, M15 5RF

Managed by Trinity College London in
association with Arts Council England.

Melody Maker Experience

Gorse Hill Studios, M32 0PR

Experience a sound recording session
or develop your talents through stage
performance opportunities.

LDOK.net Radio

Media City UK, Salford, M50 2EQ

For those with a learning disability
wishing to have a go at radio
broadcasting, whilst encouraging and
promoting wider support and
recognition of the community.

Green Academies Project (GAP) with the National Trust

Taster sessions to suit you

Dunham Massey, WA14 4SJ

For Partington and Carrington young
people aged 11-24. A fully inclusive
conservation project where you can
learn new skills and get advice.

I Can Do It! Henshaws Lifeskills

Evenings, weekends and holidays

Henshaws, Old Trafford, M16 0GS

Funded by BBC Children in Need, this
is a free lifeskills course available for
anyone with sight loss from 8 to 18.

Shaping Our Inclusion – GMCDP

Meets Fortnightly

Windrush Centre, M16 7WD

Provides training and development
opportunities throughout the year.

Services



Empower You

A new service for people with learning impairments and Autism in Trafford.

Empower You supports people with learning impairments, intellectual impairments and Autism to lead healthy, active lives.

Empower You offers eight to twelve weeks of support to groups of people with learning impairments, intellectual impairments and Autism to engage with any activity within their locality; anything from walking and gardening groups to intensive gym workouts. It does this by grouping people based on their interests.

It also works with those around the person such as carers, family, friends and support staff as 'buddies' to increase their awareness and confidence in supporting physical activity.

Watch [Sami and Ferdy's story](#) with Empower You on Youtube!

At the same time, Empower You upskills local activity providers, offering accredited training to increase their confidence in supporting disabled people in the activity they provide.

In doing so, Empower You creates a community in which disabled people have the opportunity and knowledgeable support in place, to maintain activity levels beyond Empower You.

To date, 70% of those engaged with Empower You have maintained their activity levels beyond the initial intensive phase of the intervention.

Empower You has been developed over a ten-year period and piloted over the past four years, recently being commissioned by Trafford Council.

Empower You is for people with learning and intellectual impairments and Autism. Empower You is delivered across Trafford.

Empower You is run by Ben Andrews, Project Manager at Unlimited Potential.

Those referred must have a learning impairment, intellectual impairment or Autism and live in the Trafford area.

Article by Ben Andrews, Project Manager, Unlimited Potential

Services



**National
Trust**

Green Academies Project (GAP)

National Trust Volunteering in Partington

The Green Academies Project (GAP) is working with young people aged 11-24 in Partington getting them closer to nature, learning environmental conservation skills and having fun through social action! We run taster sessions for interested groups as well as regular youth volunteering activities.

[Urban Rangers, Partington](#)

[Youth Rangers, Dunham Massey](#)

The Green Academies Project (GAP) is a National Trust project funded by The National Lottery Community Fund through the Our Bright Future Programme. The aim of the project is to get more young people aged 11-24 practically involved in their local green spaces.

At Dunham Massey and in Partington, GAP offers young people the chance to gain practical conservation skills and experience in habitat conservation, food growing and horticulture in local green spaces alongside experienced and qualified rangers. The aim of this is to

create a positive and sustainable community, through creating partnerships with the organisations based in Partington as well as the residents of the community.

Outcomes: Through this project at Dunham Massey there have been many positive outcomes including over 300 young people engaging in the projects program, largely across Partington.

The Ranger and Coordinator of the GAP program at Dunham Massey have made excellent partnerships with organisations in the local area including High-Functioning Trafford, Autistic Society Greater Manchester Area, Postive Partington, bluSCI and many more.

All of these organisations touch the lives of young people in Partington and gives the program its best chance to reach out to as many young people as possible.

George, aged 13, is one of our regular GAP volunteers: ***“I feel I have more confidence and it has stopped me feeling stressed when I go out in my community”.***

Learning: The Green Academies Project has helped young people in the area develop their skills and work ethic

Services



**National
Trust**

into skills that they require to become employable and have helped them gain employment and further education when they have finished school or college.

Future: The Green Academies Project team are thinking a lot about how the opportunities for young people they've created can transition into business as usual in the future for the National Trust and are working with Dunham Massey and local partners to achieve a shared vision.

The team want to expand their partnerships to reach more young people, share skillsets and contacts with other partners, to embed the GAP program in property plans at Dunham Massey, and hope that there is a way to link the project to the National Curriculum to get a larger amount of students involved in their school time.

Get Involved: We welcome young people and community volunteers from all backgrounds and skill sets.

Just launched is our new Garden Club run by the National Trust Garden Team from Dunham Massey. They meet every Tuesday at the Library & Wellbeing Centre garden in Partington 11-12pm.

Using our expertise, we are also supporting Your Housing Group, the landowners of Redbook Trail in Partington with our Redbook Revive. The Redbrook Trail is a 5.8 acre site with 650 metres of pedestrian paths through beautiful stretches of woodland with areas of wildflower and is home to a wide variety of birds and mammals.

The work, which is being undertaken predominately by volunteers including school children and members of the community, has included clearing pathways, restoring signage and information boards, and litter picking.

Included in our plans is the restoration of an accessible path and we have recently applied to the Partington Moving fund to get financial support to create an orienteering route in conjunction with British Orienteering, and the National Trust's Active Outdoors Team for ages 5+ along the trail including sensory boxes and nature signage.

Visit the [National Trust Website page about the Green Academies Project](#)

Email: alex.bond@nationaltrust.org.uk

Services



Autism Friendly Sessions at Manchester Museums

In the run up to World Autism Awareness Week, Jackie (see page 7) has pulled together the following information about autism friendly sessions at the ever popular Manchester Museums.

[World Autism Awareness Week](#)

Monday 1 April to Sunday 7 April 2019

Open Doors

Manchester Art Gallery

Since 2014 Manchester Art Gallery has been holding monthly autism friendly sessions on a Saturday morning aimed at children with autism and their families.

Galleries open at 9.15am so you can experience the gallery at a quieter, calmer time. There are artist-led workshops and activities with staff trained in Autism Awareness. A quiet room is available for moments that might be a bit difficult.

See, Make and Do

Manchester Museum

Join us for our early openings at the

museum aimed at children who have Autism and other needs, along with their families and carers, and siblings.

Activities take place before the museum opens to the general public and there will be a quiet room available too.

See objects, do activities and make creations inspired by one of the museum's galleries. A different gallery will be open at each early opening.

Come along to enjoy and explore together.

Early Autism Friendly openings

National Football Museum

The National Football Museum will be opening its doors early for children with autism, their families, friends and carers.

Families can explore the galleries in a calm and relaxed environment before the general public access. Gallery sound levels will be minimal with a quiet room available.

There will be plenty of opportunities to kick a football around in our Football Plus+ interactives, while non-football fans can enjoy craft activities, handling objects, trails and more.

Article by Jackie Tarpey, SEN Consultant Autism and Social Communication for SENAS