

The Link

SEND Newsletter

Spring Edition 2017

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

We are working hard to improve how we communicate with parents and carers of children and young people who have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities. Lots of you have told us that you really valued the newsletters we used to produce and so here we are with our first relaunched issue!

Through this newsletter we aim to keep you up to date with any changes to local processes and services as well as linking you to our local offer website where you can find lots of useful information, advice and support. With the weather getting nicer and the school holidays nearly upon us, we're sure you'll also be interested in finding out about activities and what's on in our area. If there is anything you'd like to see in future editions, please let us know.

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It only takes 5 minutes to complete the short form which you can find online:

www.trafford.gov.uk/thelink

Spotlight On: Short Breaks

Jargon Buster - Short Breaks

“What is a short break?” I hear you ask. “Why do you use so much jargon?” I hear you cry! Well sometimes we have to use the terms that the Government have given to some provision, and we know it just sounds like jargon to you, but actually from a government point of view it does provide a common language across the country and help everyone to understand what they are talking about. So I thought it might be a good idea to teach you a bit of our language. It’s not always possible to avoid jargon, and sometimes it’s useful if you know what the jargon means to help you to be able to join in conversations.

So what is a short break? It sounds like a cheeky weekend away to some fancy European City, but I’m afraid in reality it’s not quite as exciting as that, and not as easy to explain either! You see the Government have told local authorities that they have to publish something called a **short breaks duty statement**. This is a document that tells parents about a range of services that are in a local area (in this case in Trafford), that meet the needs of parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), and crucially it also has to tell parents whether they can get these services. So this range of services is what we mean when we say **Short Breaks**. And when we talk about **eligibility criteria**, this tells you whether or not you can get the services. Eligibility tends to be based on a level of need that a child has – or put another way, the level of support they might need to access a short break. I suppose one way of understanding why they

are called short breaks, is that it provides parents and carers with a break or a rest from their caring role, and the children a break from their parents.

So let’s give you some examples of the range of short breaks in Trafford and this will demonstrate to you more about level of need too.

At the lowest end of the need spectrum, we have lots of activities and clubs that are accessible to all children in Trafford, things like after school clubs, holiday clubs, sports clubs, music and drama clubs and so on. These are all accessible to children who don’t have SEND, but they may also be accessible to those with SEND, or those that perhaps just need a little bit of support from friends or family to access these. So this level of need is referred to as ‘Universal provision’, or in our Short Breaks Duty Statement we call them **Tier 1 Universal Services**. Parents would be expected to access and pay for these services in just the same way as those caring for a child without SEND. Parents would self-refer to these clubs and arrange for their child to attend without any need for contact with the local authority or any formal assessment from health or social care teams in Trafford.

See more!

[Things to Do on the Local Offer](http://www.trafford.gov.uk/localoffer)
www.trafford.gov.uk/localoffer

As we move up a notch to the children with slightly higher needs – these children might find it difficult to use the services at the Universal level. They may be able to access some of these services with the support of someone, but would really be more comfortable with a short break that is a bit more tailored to their higher support needs. We call this level **Tier 2 Targeted**. So targeted clubs and activities tend not to happen in the community naturally as the universal ones do; so Trafford Council arrange for some short breaks to be provided that fit the needs of some of the young people at this level of need.

Examples of short breaks at this level are a Saturday Club which is held at Delamere Special School, Holiday clubs, youth clubs, outdoor pursuits, residential breaks, a buddying scheme that is aimed specifically at helping those with Autism. To get these short breaks, you can get a professional that you know to refer you to the provider, or you can self-refer to the provider themselves. Trafford Service Directory (we'll often call this the Local Offer) has this information, or you can call the Family Information Service for more detail. So again, at this level there is no formal assessment by Trafford Council; it is about either self-referring or perhaps a professional helping you to access these services if you think they might help you and your child. In some cases there might be a waiting list for these short breaks because it is difficult to judge how much of these services that we need, but as commissioners, we will monitor this by having regular updates from the providers.

The children and young people who are more complex, and who have higher needs than the targeted level, are typically the ones where there would be a referral into the Complex and Additional Needs (CAN) Service at Trafford Council, where a formal assessment by a social worker or health professional of their needs would take place. At this level of need, we move into a whole different set of short breaks that might be available and also into the realms of personal budgets. We refer to this level of needs as **Tier 3 Targeted/Specialist** and **Tier 4 Specialist**. Crucially, the difference at this level is that to get these services, your child needs to

be assessed by a professional in the CAN team as needing these services. Examples of services at this level might be a trained carer – someone who is able to care for a very complex child or young person, it might be that it is one trained carer to specifically focus on one child, or even in some cases two trained carers looking after and supporting one child. This might take place in your own home, or away from home.

All of this information, and more, is available in our current short breaks duty statement which is on the local offer under Short Breaks.

I recently attended a Trafford Parents Forum Meeting at the Life Centre in Sale which was really well attended and I explained some of the terminology around short breaks, as well as feeding back on a recent review that we carried out. Also on the short breaks page is an overview of this review which includes what we will be trying to work on over the coming months. We know that the system is complicated, and difficult to understand so there are a set of recommendations that we have agreed from this review so that we can start to move towards a fairer and simpler system of providing short breaks in Trafford.

In developing short breaks services across Trafford, we're really keen to get involvement from parents in Trafford, and we want to coordinate this through Trafford Parents Forum so that we have an approach where we can confidently say that parents have helped us to design services, so to finish off, I'll leave you with one more little bit of jargon – because we call this approach to designing services together co-production!

View More!

[Short Breaks on Local Offer](#)
[Short Breaks Duty Statement](#)
[Short Breaks Review Exec Summary](#)

SEND News

Local Area SEND Inspection

In February Trafford Council and our health care partners were inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). They were looking at how well we are working with the reforms for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

Inspectors spoke with children, young people, parents and carers, as well as staff from the Council and Health services. They also looked at other information and data about the way Trafford performs locally and nationally.

The [findings of this joint inspection](#) have now been written up and published on the Ofsted website.

Strengths include:

- There is strong working between the Council and Health services and providers
- We are able to identify and meet the needs of children and young people well
- Our schools are of high quality and there is a good level of support by health for those with more complex needs in specialist schools
- That many of our children and young people are succeeding in school and gaining employment or training

- That we have strong plans in place to prepare pupils with SEND for adulthood and to progress into a career of their choice

Where we can improve:

- Making sure we work more closely with parents and carers in shaping what we do to meet needs. This is called “co-production”
- Getting better at communicating and listening to you
- Making sure that the right services are available to support you and your child(ren) when they have identified health requirements, such as speech and language or mental health needs.

If you have any ideas about how we can improve those areas for development, please contact the Family Information Service.

Contact Us:

Family Information Service

Telephone: 0161 912 1053

Email: FIS@trafford.gov.uk

Facebook: [@TraffordFIS](#)

Twitter: [@TraffordFIS](#)

SEND News

Let's Talk SEND Youth Conference



On Thursday 2 March pupils from six schools gathered at Lancashire County Cricket Club. All the pupils had SEN and/or disabilities and were coming together to discuss how best to prepare them for adulthood.

The event was hosted by Trafford Youth Cabinet as part of their 'Let's Talk' consultation conferences.

After a welcome from Youth Cabinet members it was straight into a guest speaker slot where the pupils were inspired by George Burgess who has not let his autism stop him from becoming an accomplished photographer and going to university.

It was then off to a choice of workshops hosted by Gorse Hill Studios and Sports Works. There were indoor sports, drama, radio and green

screen activities to add a fun element to the day.

A selection of stall holders came to the event to promote their service or opportunities. These included Phoenix Futures, the Proud Trust, Manchester and Salford Colleges and more. Each stall holder was introduced to the pupils and they explained what their offer was.

Some of the aspirations of the young people included: to become a Doctor, work in Tesco, be a bus driver, be a mechanic, and be rich!

More workshops followed before an inspirational ending with Oliver talking about his supported internship at Trafford General.

All that was left was a delicious lunch before everyone said goodbye....until next year!

Trafford Youth Zone

Check out our website to find out about support for young people and what's going on!

Advice and Guidance

Welcome to the Parent and Young People Partnership (PYPPS)

We provide a FREE service offering independent advice and support of SEND for parents/carers and young people aged 0-25.

Geraldine English is the Manager of the Service, Nicola Montes is the Caseworker and Louise Lynch is the Administration Assistant. Our team has vast experience and expertise in SEN Law, Disability and Social Care.

We have a telephone helpline, answering calls from parents, professionals and young people who need help and advice on various aspects of special educational needs. We can also meet with you at Sale Waterside to discuss your case in more detail, or if you prefer we can visit you at home.

We offer:

- Help applying for an EHC Plan
- Supporting parents and young people through the EHCP process
- Helping parents and young people who are unhappy with the support they are getting at school/college
- Supporting parents and young people in preparing for and attending meetings
- Advice and support on what to do next if you have any concerns
- And much more...

Our telephone helpline working hours are 9am to 1pm, Monday to Friday in term-time only. A

limited service is available outside of these times and dates.

We will answer all telephone calls within 3 rings where possible; outside of this we provide a confidential answerphone service (available on all 4 lines).

We will respond to all requests for advice/information within 3 working days.

We will answer all written correspondence (including letters and emails) with an initial contact with 3 working days.

All our information is available in different formats and language. Please request this if it is needed.

Our office is based within Sale Waterside, which is fully accessible and also has hearing loops and a lift.

Contact Us:

Parent and Young People Partnership Service

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

Email: PYPPS@trafford.gov.uk

Facebook: @TraffordPYPPS

Twitter: @Traffordpypps

See also: [Local Offer: Advice and Support](#)

SEND Local Offer

New look Local Offer website!

*You told us what you think.
We listened.*

Here's the new look Local Offer website!

We listened to what you had to say and made it easier to look for services already on the website. See what else we did in response to your views, and continue to have your say!



Welcome to Trafford's local offer of support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or who are Disabled (SEND).



By age



We would love to know what you think about our local offer and the services in it. Or maybe you want the information in a different way. Find out more in [Local Offer explained](#).

www.trafford.gov.uk/localoffer

SEND Local Offer

We have listened closely to the feedback we have received through our surveys, workshops, focus groups and community outreach work. One of the key messages we heard is that accessing the local listings on the website was not as easy as you would have liked it to be.

View More!

[Local Offer Feedback report 2016](#)

In response to this, we have developed a new structure for the website.

Services, activities, events and organisations - listings that have always been included in the local offer website - are now the first things you should be able to access. Just click on 1 of the 8 categories on the front page!

If you want more detailed information, the advice and guidance pages - around which our local offer was previously structured - will still be available in easy to find locations, so none of those resources will have been lost!

There is also an option to view the local offer by age range pages that handily link off to key listings and information for different key stages in your child or young person's life.

It's not just a website!

When we refer to our local offer, we mean all the services and organisations which are part of the support on offer in Trafford.

The Trafford Directory website is the tool we use to communicate this so you understand what is available and how to access it.

Did you know that you can also get information over the phone by contacting the [Family Information Service](#)?

You might also see our helpful outreach officers out and about in your communities...



Let us know what you think

The Family Information Service always want to hear your views about Trafford's local offer.

We can come to any groups you attend to take you through things, step by step, and we will take back anything you have to say – so why not [contact us](#)!

Trafford Parent Forum

Trafford Parent Forum's strap-line is ***one voice, building partnerships, influencing change.***

One voice:

The forum wants to ensure that the collective voice of Trafford parent carers carries into the heart of the local authority and beyond. The team is committed to promoting the 'working together is better' ethos and 'Let Parent Carers be a part of the solution not made to feel part of the problem'. Recent examples of our collective voice working together include, Trafford's 'All Age Travel Assistance Policy' and 'Ashton on Mersey School Year 7 SEND intake Sept 2016', where TPF was able to help parent carers to a successful resolution on these issues.

The forum has run Skill Building Training courses to upskill parent carers to act as advocates for their children. The forum has also run 5-week legal training courses in partnership with Trafford Parent and Young Peoples Service [PYPPS], the forum plans to run this legal course again this year.

Building partnerships:

Since last September parent carers have been represented on the Trafford SEND Board and working groups and made a significant contribution to the recent CQC/OFSTED inspection which took place in January 2017.

The forum approached the local authority with a proposed plan to work together to create a charter between Trafford Parents Forum and

the local authority, which will truly encompass and embed parent carers as valued partners and to ensure the collective and inclusive voice of Trafford parent carers be actively involved in the commissioning and review of services for children and young people with disabilities, SEN, and/or additional needs.

Influencing change:

TPF members have completed surveys recently on the Local Offer, EHCs and CQC/OFSTED inspection, which have influenced the shaping of the re-launched Local Offer, provided valuable feedback for the EHC team and the parents voice sent to the OFSTED inspectors. Thank you to our parents on the 'TPF OFSTED planning team' which ensured we were prepared for the sudden inspection.





TPF were requested to submit a report to local MP Kate Green on 'SEND and Grammar schools in Trafford', which informed Kate Green in her discussions with Justine Greening [Secretary of State for Education].

Please make sure your current details are on our mailing list and we will keep you up-to-date.

The BBC have also approached the national, regional and local parent carer forums for input from parents, young people and professionals for 'SEND week on BBC Breakfast'; if you are interested in being involved in this feature, to be broadcast in the spring, do contact the forum for further details.

We have held a parent carer recruitment campaign for **seven parent carer vacancies** on our SEND Steering Group. Interested members were invited to our recent Steering Group meeting on 6th January.

The forum has a new structure and a new director has joined the management team and there are now twelve parent carers on the steering group, two of which are also parent carer reps.

We would love to hear from you parent carers, we will be holding a variety of events such as family focus meetings with key note speakers and parent training.

Contact Us:

**Trafford Parents Forum
Ground Floor Oakland House
Talbot Road
Old Trafford
M16 0PQ**

0161 872 0183

traffordparentsforum@gmail.com

www.traffordparentsforum.org

Facebook @traffordparentsforum

THE FORUM IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU



Leisure Activities and What's On

Davyhulme Youth Club

Every Friday

Location: Davyhulme

Fully inclusive club run by Gorse Hill Studios Creative Community

Lostock Youth Club Saturday Challenge

Every Saturday

Location: Lostock

Funtastic Fridays Youth Club

Every Friday, 5-7pm

Location: Urmston, Trafford

Inclusive club for all children of all abilities, parents, carers and siblings. Aimed at 7+

The Toy House

Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays, 9.30-11.30am and 12.30-2.30pm

Location: Urmston, Trafford

The Toy House offers an inclusive play environment and a wonderful sensory room!

Lanky's 0-5 Inclusive Arts and Crafts

Wednesday and Thursdays, 10am to 11.30am. Term time only

Location: Stretford, Trafford

For babies, tots and toddlers with their parents or carers.

Autism Society Greater Manchester Area (ASGMA)

Location: Stretford, Trafford

Activities include Gym and Swim Group (18+), Drop-In (18+), Friday Group (18+), Gaming Group 16+ and Youth Club

Swimming and Sports Activities

Saturdays, 1pm to 3pm

Location: Partington Sports Village

2 hour weekly sessions for disabled young people aged 4-25 years. Fun, social and fully accessible.

Football (for Juniors with a disability)

Wednesdays 4pm to 5pm

Location: Partington, Trafford

Footie Fun with Stockport CP. For 11-18s.

Disability Snowsport at Chill Factore

Location: Urmston, Trafford

Experience the slopes!

Trafford Wednesdays Outdoor Youth Group

Wednesdays 5.50pm to 9pm

Location: Stockport

Run by Stockport CP.

Childrens Able and Disabled Sports (CADS)

Location: Seashell Trust, Stockport

Term Time only

Activities include Climbing, Basketball, Football, Movement and Dance, Gym sessions

Independent Options Children and Family

Location: Stockport

Inclusive play opportunities for children aged 0 to 10 years

Autism Friendly Film Screenings

Once per month

Dimensions in partnership with Odeon Cinema

Leisure Activities and What's On

Holiday Activities

Transitions Project Animation Class

Monday 3 April 2017, 10am to 4pm

Location: Sale, Trafford

For 13-19 year olds, pizza lunch!

Siblings (11-19) welcome

Come and Try – Tennis Any Ability

Tuesday 11 April 2017, 10.30am to 2pm

Location: Bolton Arena, Bolton

Part of INAS World Tennis Championships, which sees the world's best players with an LD come to Bolton Arena.

Holiday Schemes

11-18 Holiday Scheme

Fun and sociable activities for young people.
Commissioned Short Break by Stockport CP.

Delamere Holiday Scheme

Play sessions and activities for 5-11 year olds.
Commissioned Short Break by Stockport CP

Together Trust Holiday Club

Commissioned Short Break by Together Trust

Leisure for Autism Holiday Schemes

Contact to be added to their mailing list.

The Children's Adventure Farm Trust

A short break provider in Altrincham

Training and Workshops

SEND Legal Training course on Preparing for Adulthood

Four Wednesdays in April/May: 10am to 12.30pm: requires commitment to attend all dates.

Location: Stretford, Trafford

For parent carers of young people with SEND aged 14+

Managing Anger Workshop (ASD)

Friday 9 June 2017, 9.45am to 2.30pm

Location: Castle Hill Centre, Bolton

A Greater Manchester Autism Consortium workshop to help families. Refreshments provided, bring your own lunch.

Sensory Needs Workshop (ASD)

Wednesday 10 May 2017, 9.45am to 2.45pm

Location: Rochdale

A Greater Manchester Autism Consortium workshop to help families. Refreshments provided, bring your own lunch.

Planning for the Future – MENCAP

Various dates and locations: including Manchester, Warrington and Liverpool.

Free information seminar with legal advice.

Take care of a loved one with a learning disability when you are no longer around - by making a suitable will or setting up a trust.

Services



New Service!

Trafford E-Mentoring Scheme by the National Autistic Society

The Trafford E-mentoring scheme provides volunteers to support young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) aged 14-18. The scheme provides peer support for the young people from young volunteers aged 16-25, with whom they may have some interests in common.

The young person is matched with one e-mentor at a time, helping them to work towards a specific goal. An e-mentor will provide the young person with worksheets and activities to complete in their own time. The young person then has the opportunity to talk about the work they have completed through weekly emails with their e-mentor via a monitored online system. Some of the modules available are social skills, understanding autism, online safety, money management and many more.

The young person can expect to receive support from one e-mentor for up to 6 months, although there is an option to complete more than one module. There is no pressure to finish the modules and the young person can choose to end the relationship at any time if they no longer feel the need for the service.

The scheme is an addition to the well-established Trafford Buddy Scheme also coordinated by The National Autistic Society. We hope that in addition to offering companionship, young people will be able to work towards their own goals at a time when

they are moving into adulthood. Through this one-to-one online contact, it is hoped that the young people we support can grow in confidence and independence whilst learning essential skills for future interaction, work or employment.

The scheme coordinator ensures that matches are made based on personality, interests, and times of availability of both the young person and the volunteer. This ensures that each match is sustainable and enjoyable for both the volunteer and the young person being supported. When recruiting and training volunteers, we look for people who are trustworthy, friendly, reliable, willing to learn and sensitive to the needs of others.

Some other Services!

[Genie Networks – Peer Support](#)

For those who are D/deaf or hearing impaired and their families.

[South Manchester Downs Syndrome Support Group](#)

Chatterbox Group, Pre-School Group and Drama Group

[High Functioning Trafford](#)

Supporting parents, carers and young people living with high-functioning autism or Asperger's syndrome.

And loads more...

[Local Support Groups on the Local Offer](#)