

The Link

SEND Newsletter

Spring Edition 2018

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

It's all change here in Trafford – as the freezing winds and snow give way to sunshine and showers, there is a new look to Trafford's SEND Local Offer website, and new faces at Trafford Parents Forum and Trafford Family Information Service who are eager to make a difference to children, young people and their families.

See our Activities and What's On section for events, workshops and training sessions, and there are useful services too!

Know a parent carer? Let them know about The Link!

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

www.trafford.gov.uk/thelink

Spotlight On: Let's Talk SEND

On Thursday 1 March pupils braved the snow to meet at the Life Centre in Sale. They were attending Trafford Youth Cabinet's 'Let's Talk SEND' conference.

The day started with a welcome from members of Trafford Youth Cabinet. They explained that they wanted to hear the voices of pupils with SEND focusing particularly on their voices about their own lives, their education and the local offer from Trafford.

'How your voice can be heard' workshop

The first workshop was about how Trafford could better get the wishes and feelings of pupils of pupils about their EHC plans. Pupils created an imaginary young person; discussing things like physical attributes, friends and family, what they do, what they like and their hopes for the future. These young people were then passed over for other pupils to work out how best to get the wishes and feelings of this young person known. The pupils used a variety of tools of their choice in order to produce a one page plan for each pupil, which was then shared with the rest of the conference. This was followed by a brief talk and Q&A from Teresa Ruzza (EHC Assessment Team Manager).

'Curriculum for Life' workshops

Hania from Youth Cabinet then explained that their campaign for the year is a curriculum for life, which is about schools teaching lessons for life as well as academics. Pupils had chosen from four workshops and they all got to do two.

- 'Money Money Money!' focussed on what kind of a spender they were as well as helping them to think about budgeting.
- 'Staying Safe' was about how they can keep themselves safe and how to report it if they are a victim of a hate crime or incident.
- 'Going Green' helped pupils find out how green they are, how to recycle and to learn more about recycling in the UK.
- 'Relationships' focussed on how they could build relationships and what they thought they needed to be taught about in school.



Spotlight On: Let's Talk SEND

Market place stalls

It was then time for a well-earned break. Tea, coffee and soft drinks were consumed (as well as a few biscuits!)

Pupils had a chance to visit some of the stalls that were set up by people from a variety of organisations, listed below.

Freebies were gratefully received. Stress balls went down very well.

Stalls included:

- [Sportworks](#)
- [The Conservation Volunteers](#)
- [The Manchester College](#)
- [Healthwatch Trafford](#)
- [Northern Sexual Health](#)
- [Kooth \(online counselling\)](#)

And many more. Why not look on Trafford's [SEND Local Offer](#) for more!

Talking about Trafford's SEND Local Offer

Trafford Family Information Service was a big part of the day. Workers from the service ran the four workshops and they had their own chance to ask pupils about their new [website](#) and about how they felt about their involvement in their EHC plans.

SEND Capital Funding Bid consultation

The day ended with questions about how pupils would spend extra money that was available to make their schools a better place.

Pupils were then treated to a slap up lunch courtesy of the great chef at the Life Centre and his team, before returning to school for the day.

Initial feedback about the day

Pupils said they had really enjoyed the day and would like to come again next year. Teachers said that pupils had really come out of their shells, some presenting to a large group for the first time

Thank you for coming along!

Thanks to the teachers from Manor High, Ashton on Mersey, St Antony's, Lostock College and Pure Innovations for getting the young people to us despite the terrible weather!

Thanks also to all the market place stalls for arriving with goodies in tow. Thank you to Dave Pilling (Safer Communities) for helping facilitate the Keeping Safe workshop and the Family Information Service for their help. A big thank you to Gorse Hill Studios for running recorded interview sessions with the students.

Most of all thanks to all the young people for letting us know what you thought throughout the day. It was a busy day but fun, and we hope you enjoyed yourselves!

SEND News

New look Trafford SEND Local Offer Website launching!

The screenshot shows the Trafford SEND Local Offer website interface. It is divided into three main sections:

- I want some advice:** Three teal buttons labeled "I am a Parent", "I am a Young Person", and "I am a Practitioner".
- I want to watch a video:** A video player titled "The Local Offer" showing a man speaking. A red play button is visible. The video content includes the text "what they like and what they want to change."
- I want to find a service:** A grid of nine buttons with icons and text:
 - Things to do (game controller icon)
 - Education (book icon)
 - Employment & Learning (person and graph icon)
 - Support Groups (group of people icon)
 - Health (apple icon)
 - Money, housing and legal (piggy bank icon)
 - Getting around (wheelchair icon)
 - Social Care (hand holding heart icon)
 - Keeping safe (umbrella icon)

The Trafford Directory website is one of the many tools you can use to find out more about what is on offer in Trafford for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or who are Disabled (SEND)

This is part of what is called Trafford's Local Offer – and it's where the current information is available for you to view online at any time:

www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/sendlocaloffer

As well as the website we have a **helpline number** for you to use if you need help finding information (or do not have access to the internet!) and you can also get in touch with us on Facebook or Twitter.

Trafford FIS also has a dedicated and skilled **Outreach Team** that work in your local communities. We are happy to come meet you at groups you already attend – just let us know!

Trafford's Local Offer first went live way back in 2014 – a long time ago! Since then it has

Contact Us: Family Information Service (FIS)

Telephone: 0161 912 1053
Email: FIS@trafford.gov.uk

Facebook: [@TraffordFIS](https://www.facebook.com/TraffordFIS)
Twitter: [@TraffordFIS](https://twitter.com/TraffordFIS)

SEND News

undergone many changes, in response to what you have told us. We have listened closely to the feedback we have received through our surveys, workshops, focus groups and community outreach work.

We also learn and develop based on national recommendations, peer and self-assessments, as well as knowledgeable organisations.

So... what's new?

We will never stop working to make your Local Offer better for you to use. For now though, here's a rundown of some of the most recent changes!

- **Advice and guidance specific to you**

Whether you are a parent, a young person, or a professional working with families; you can now view lots of advice pages in our **"I want some advice"** section.

- **Video content**

Many young people (and other people) have said that a directory of services is not how they prefer to find out information and often went on YouTube to look up things instead. So we now have a new **"I want to watch a video"** section as well as a new YouTube channel.

We really hope this will be an easier and more accessible way to find out about a whole range of areas that make up the local offer.

Finally, we are working with two media savvy Trafford parents to develop our own video content to help promote Trafford's local offer – so keep your eye out for that!

- **Tailored services and activities**

In the past we included many listings of services or activities that are available to children and young people with lower level needs, often called "mainstream" or "universal" services.

Now under **"I want to find a service"** you will find activities and services that are inclusive or more tailored to support children and young people with additional requirements. These more "targeted" or "specialist" listings sit under 9 different categories.

However you can still find out about all the other stuff going on in Trafford!

Within each category you will find useful links to other areas of the Trafford Directory - the [Children and Families](#) channel, [Young People](#) channel, as well as [Adults and Older People](#) channel.

- **"Other useful information" Carousel**

At the bottom of Trafford's Local Offer homepage you can still find out latest news or other information on a moving carousel.

View More!

[Trafford SEND Local Offer YouTube](#)

Advice and Guidance

Trafford Parents Forum: Excited to introduce our newest member!



Hi, I'm Rebecca Blinkhorn, the new **Engagement & Development Officer** at Trafford Parents Forum, and a very proud parent carer.

I'm mum to two boys age 8 and 6.

My younger son Michael was born with Congenital CMV in 2012. Michael is supported in a mainstream school with an Education and

Healthcare plan. We have had a bumpy ride with lots of specialists and intervention, so the world of SEND is one I'm very familiar with.

Being a parent carer has inspired me to do a number of things. I run a national support group for parents regarding feeding difficulties (a huge challenge for us!)

I'm a keen blogger and active in all issues that affect families like mine. Being Michael's mum has motivated me to raise over £10,000 for charities that have supported us and in 2014, I was lucky enough to win Manchester Evening News's 'Mum of the Year' competition.

With a background in law and social housing, I have a wealth of experience in community development and engagement.

I'm really looking forward to meeting our parent carers at Trafford Parents Forum. I can't wait to hear your ideas and move forwards to shape the service, parent carers in Trafford most want.

If you would like to meet Rebecca in person book onto our Information Event on Thursday 15 March 2018, 9.30am – 1pm, further details below.

Contact Us:

Trafford Parents Forum
0161 872 0183
traffordparentsforum@gmail.com

SEND Local Offer

And also... meet the new SEND Local Offer Advisor!

We are pleased to say that Rhiannon D'Ambra joined us recently as the **Trafford SEND Local Offer Advisor**.

Rhiannon comes from a background of working with children and young people with special educational needs and disability.

She has worked in schools as a specialist teaching assistant for 2 years, volunteered in residence for young adults with complex and multiple needs and also worked with adults with brain injuries. She has a degree in Psychology (BSc).



This is an exciting and completely new role which will develop over the next few months. Firstly, though, Rhiannon has to get through a rather intensive induction programme!

Over the past couple of weeks she has been meeting (or arranging to meet) many different people and teams, as well as learning systems being used here in Trafford.

Rhiannon will be working as part of Trafford Family Information Service and Complex Needs (CAN) teams.

She will also be working closely with Special Education Needs Assessment Service (SENAS) and the Education, Health and Care (EHC) Team.

The most important parts of her new job:

Rhiannon will be your first point of call if you or your child has lower level needs and/or you are not known to social services, but are looking for some extra help.

She will support you to use and access Trafford's Local Offer and complete early help assessments with you

Rhiannon will be picking up referrals via the Multiagency Referral and Assessment Team (MARAT) after she has completed her settling in period. Referrals could be from the school, or another agency, but you will also be able to refer yourself or your child and family.

SEND Local Offer

Team player...

Alongside the teams here, Rhiannon will also build relationships with local support groups including Trafford Parents Forum and Trafford Parent and Young People Partnership Service.

Oh, and you might see her out and about at groups too! Part of her role is to help providers of activities and services develop to help be more inclusive and accessible to families. She will also make sure they are keeping the Trafford SEND Local Offer website up to date!

Finally... Rhiannon is also the central contact point for families accessing **short breaks** at lower levels of need, and will be responsible for monitoring all applications to those commissioned by the Council – phew!

Contact details and information on referrals will be available shortly on the Local Offer and we'll include them in the next LINK newsletter too!

New feature: Consultation Corner

As has been said before - your views are important. It might not feel that way sometimes, but your views can lead to real changes here in Trafford!

This section will let you know of the new places where you can have your say. We also want to be able to "Close the Loop" by letting you see what others have said.

What you said about Trafford SEND Local Offer:

To families whose child attends Delamere and the pupils who attended the Let's Talk SEND Conference and gave your views – thank you very much!

27% families whose child attends Delamere have used Trafford SEND Local Offer.

20% of families said they go to Trafford SEND Local Offer for information and advice about SEND outside of school. That was the second most used source!

- **53%** go to their **family and friends**
- **13%** find out more from other **local groups** and **other websites**
- **7%** use Trafford Parent and Young People Partnership Service (PYPPS)

Only **13%** of the young people who attended the conference had heard about the Local Offer - we want to change that!

What we'll do: Continue to promote at events, at School SENCO forums and at local groups. Continue to develop more accessible content. Work with you to find out about what you think about what is on offer locally!

Trafford Parents Forum



Trafford Parents Forum



- Jan Barkworth - Inspirational Speaker and North West Heroes Award Winner will talk about her struggle for diagnosis for her children, how she helped her eldest son set up his business and to talk about her community group AntiSK
- Trafford Local Authority SEND funding 2018-2019

Trafford Parents Forum Information Event – Reminder

A FREE event for Parent/Carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Trafford.

The Life Centre, Washway Road, Sale - Thursday, 15th March, 9.30am to 1pm with refreshments at 11.15am

Come and join Trafford Parents Forum and other parents for an informal get together and listen to presentations on current issues around education in Trafford.

- Presentation by our new Engagement and Development Worker - Rebecca Blinkhorn

There will be opportunities to chat and network with professionals and other parents.

Free but booking required

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/trafford-parentcarer-send-information-event-tickets-43123779385>

Consultation Corner

All Age Travel Assistance Policy Consultation

Deadline: Friday 16 March 2018

Trafford Council is committed to reviewing the All Age Travel Assistance Policy each year and consulting on any proposed changes. Feedback is wanted from anybody interested or affected.





Leisure Activities and What's On

Events and Activities

Autism Friendly Early Opening

**Saturday 10 March, 14 April, 12 May 2018,
9.15am to 10.30am (drop in event)**

Activities take place before the University of Manchester Museum opens to the general public and there will be a quiet room available too.

Trafford Parents Forum event

Thursday 15 March 9.30am to 1:00pm

Come and join Trafford Parents Forum and other parents for an informal get together and listen to presentations on current issues around SEND in Trafford.

Trafford Advocacy launch events

Tuesday 20 March 2018, 10:00am to 12 noon and 1:00pm to 4:00pm

What is 'advocacy?' Our Pop Up event aims to demystify our service, raise awareness of our free support and help you understand how you could benefit. Young people in transition and preparing for adulthood would especially find this session useful.

SEND Matters: Enriching your lives

Thursday 22 March 2018, 10am to 1pm

This event is an opportunity for young people with SEND to find out more about the various recreational activities that can be available to them outside of school and college.

Unicorns and Dragons

Saturday 24 March 2018, 1pm to 2.30pm

This exciting and mythical event is filled with unicorns and dragons - for deaf, hard of hearing children or CODAs.

Frogtastic

Wednesday 25 April, 6 June, 25 July 2018

'Inclusive' club night for people with learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders, mental health conditions, their friends / guests (18+).

Frogtastic in the Park

Tuesday 10 July 2018, 6.15pm to 9.30pm

Starring two Top Tributes plus an evening of top quality entertainment and a full supporting show with the Frogtastic DJ's, an incredible outdoor party experience like no other!

I Can Do It! (Residential break)

**Monday 13 - Friday 17 August 2018
(residential stay)**

A fun and interactive residential course at the Children's Adventure Farm in Altrincham for visually impaired children and young people aged 8-18.

Leisure Activities and What's On

Training and Workshops

'Birth to five' free parenting workshop for families with SEND - Encouraging Positive Behaviour

Monday 12 March 2018, 09:45am to 12:00

This session will look at why our children behave the way they do, how to encourage positive behaviour and top tips to help.

Help Me To Help Myself

Wednesday 14 March 2018, 10am to 3pm

A free event aimed at professionals working within the field of Autism and Complex Needs - help me to help myself: coping skills and making sense of my self-injury.

'Birth to five' free parenting workshop for families with SEND - Building Parental Confidence

Monday 19 March 2018, 09:45am to 12:00pm

This session will look at skills to help you feel more confident in making decisions about your child and when meeting and communicating with professionals.

Postcards from the Aspie World

Wednesday 21 March, 6:00pm to 7:00pm

This session is aimed at helping families deal with everyday issues like mealtimes, communication, behaviour and looking for ways to help your child become more independent.

Sensory Approaches to Managing Behaviour and Diet

Thursday 22 March 2018, 10am to 2pm

An informative workshop discussing proactive sensory approaches to support children and young people to manage their behaviour, and how to introduce new foods to children with a limited diet.

'Birth to five' free parenting workshop for families with SEND - Money Matters

Monday 26 March 2018, 09:45am – 12:00

This session will address the additional costs of bringing up a child and help you understand the range of grants, benefits and entitlements available and know how to get support.

Autistic People & Their Contribution to Society

Wednesday 18 April 2018, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

In this session, Katherine Corey (Head of Royal College Manchester) will celebrate the positive contribution autistic people with learning disabilities make to the community.

Regulating & Managing Sensory Needs

Wednesday 16 May 2018, 6:00pm - 7:00pm

In this session, one of Seashell Trust's occupational therapists Rachel Johnson will talk about some of the ways we can help children and young people learn strategies to manage their sensory needs, introducing ideas and equipment that can be used at home.

Services



Trafford Combined ADHD Service TCAS.

With the launch of Trafford ADHD Integrated Care Pathway in October 2017, the service and my role were formulated.

I have been in post since May 2017, my role is between Community Paediatrics and Healthy Young Minds (HYM – Formerly CAMHS) working in partnership with Education, Social Care and Allied Health Professionals.

Referrals to the service are via GP or SENCOs (Special Educational Needs Coordinators – based within the child’s school). Consent must be obtained from parent/guardian and the child must be registered with a Trafford GP.

The pathway covers the assessment and management of children and young people with suspected or diagnosed ADHD.

Role of ADHD Nurse.

With the role covering both services, children and young people who are referred to the pathway are screened and triaged to the most appropriate service to meet their needs, for Community Paediatrics; if there are concerns in regards to behaviour/development will be accepted, for HYM; if the main presentation includes significant mental health problems causing functional impairment in more than one setting, the child/young person will be triaged to HYM.

All children referred to the service will be required to conduct a Qb Test – a validated

objective assessment tool prior to their initial assessment appointment with a clinician. This is administered by the ADHD Nurse and other trained professionals facilitated within the Qb Clinic.

If a child/young person receives a diagnosis, parents/guardian will be offered post-diagnostic support in the form of the ADHD Parenting Course. This is delivered by the ADHD Nurse and Neurodevelopmental Family Support Worker from HYM.

Following diagnosis, the child will remain under the care of their allocated clinician. Support in between routine appointments may be offered by the ADHD Nurse, in particular for school liaison support; attending meetings and additional support which may be required to the child/young person and family.

As part of the ADHD Nurses role, nurse-led clinics are implemented for both Community Paediatrics and HYM for two purposes; medication and review and new patient – ADHD Assessments. The child/young person will still attend an annual review with their lead clinician.

Any queries/questions can be directed to Laura Watson, ADHD Nurse Practitioner, Community Paediatrics or HYM, 1st Floor Sale Waterside, Waterside House, Sale. M33 7ZF.

Services



Pennine Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Trafford Children's Therapy Service

Are you concerned about your child's functional development?

Then visit our website which has a wide range of information leaflets to support preschool, primary and secondary age children with functional difficulties such as ball skills, correctly holding a pencil, handwriting, doing/undoing buttons, using cutlery, organizing their work etc.

www.penninecare.nhs.uk/resources/trafford-childrens-therapy-leaflets

Specialist Occupational Therapists from Trafford Children's Therapy have worked together to develop these strategies which can be used by parents, preschool and school support.

The strategies provided in the leaflets will help you by giving guidance of where to start with lots of ideas for practice.

For more information about our service visit our main website:

www.penninecare.nhs.uk/traffordchildrenstherapy



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