



Trafford SEND Link Newsletter - March 2024

[Bigger Kids can enjoy the Hideaway too!](#)



With thanks to the Hideaway for the article!



1 - A picture of the opening ceremony with staff, local offer advisor Sarah Bradley and Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester.

The new Hideout Zone is now available to book on weekends and holidays!

Officially opened by our mayor Andy Burnham, the space features Xbox, PS5, laptops and Switch so your older kids can battle it out on games consoles, enjoy a game of pool or air hockey, have fun in our new Lego booth or simply enjoy some crafts and activities for bigger kids.

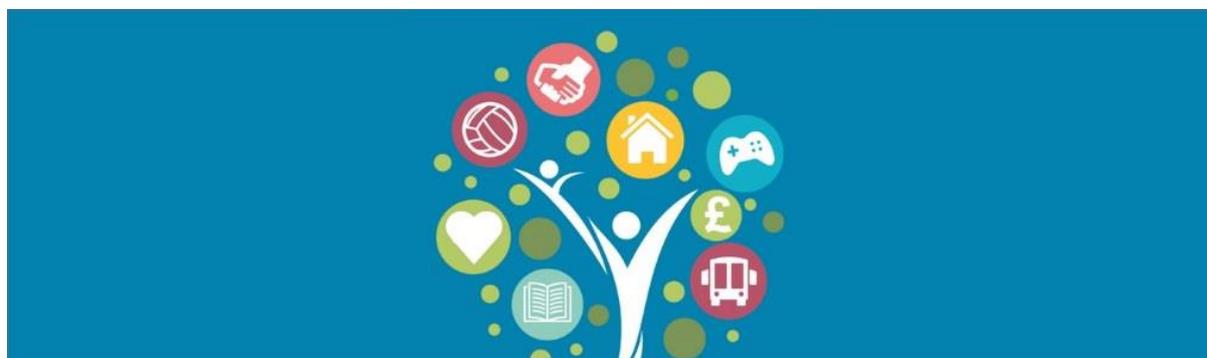


2 - A modern and fun play area for young people, with games tables, sofas and consoles

The Zone limits the number of children who can play at one time so don't forget to add it on when you're booking!

Book now¹

The Change Programme



What is The Change Programme?

On 2 March 2023 the Government published the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan Right Support, Right Place, Right Time² in response to the SEND Green paper that was published in March 2022. It proposes a number of reforms to the system.

The Change Programme is a national project created to test some of the changes that the Government wants to make.

Parent carer voice has played a key role in the national development of The Change Programme Partnership (CPP).

The Change Programme in Trafford

Trafford is part of the Change Programme Partnership for the Northwest Region (NW) - working with Rochdale, Oldham, and Manchester. Manchester are the Lead Authority for our NW CPP.

As part of this work Trafford Council and health partners will be joined by Trafford Parents Forum³, Trafford SENDIASS⁴, the other NW CPP areas and their local parent carer forums. We will work together across education, health and social care.

What this means for families in Trafford

This is an exciting time for us all in Trafford, and especially for families of children and young people who have additional needs and/or disabilities. We all have the opportunity to be directly involved in shaping and directing any changes made to the National SEND System.

Parent carer and child / young person's participation and feedback is crucial in the Change Programme - testing the changes the Government wants to make, making sure that this is fit for purpose, and straight forward for families to access.

For more information about the proposals and the outcomes it hopes will be achieved:

¹<https://beyonk.com/provider/d0ykdcsv-the-hideaway?portal=true&theme=32B0A2&search=location&search=date>

²<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-and-alternative-provision-improvement-plan>

³https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/service.page?id=m9xlpV_FGOs

⁴<https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/service.page?id=fEQ0jVm7p8s>

- [Trafford Directory | The Change Programme](#) ⁵

We will be keeping this page updated with the progress as it happens and will keep you updated here in the Link in future issues.

Stockdales and The Rock Choir



We are thrilled to be working with the UK's favourite contemporary choir for this fabulous event. Over 200 choir members will be singing well known hits from years gone by and today!

The show is in aid of the Stockdales *Every Child Deserves To Play* appeal – raising money for Stockies, our weekend social club for children with learning disabilities. We will all be there singing and dancing along!

Everyone's invited – so bring family and friends – and join in the singing. The more the merrier!

- [Trafford Directory | Stockdales and The Rock Choir](#) ⁶

We also need volunteers to move through the audience with donation buckets and card scanners. This is such an important part of the event – so if you'd like to volunteer – we'd love your help! Thank you.

Please email: fundraising@stockdales.org.uk⁷

See you there!

⁵<https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/advice.page?id=dkvMLOUnN8g>

⁶<https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/service.page?id=4iP0dDNF-9A>

⁷<mailto:fundraising@stockdales.org.uk>

The National Autistic Society's Parent to Parent Service



With thanks to Kate Dacombe, Autism Support Delivery Officer (Emotional Support) for the article.

Emotional Support Parent to Parent Helpline

This helpline is a UK-wide confidential telephone service which provides emotional support to parents and carers of autistic children (which includes grown up children).

The service is provided by volunteers who are all parents of autistic people. Because of their experience with their own families, they can relate to what parents are going through.

They offer empathy, understanding and an opportunity to talk through feelings and experiences. We are unable to provide face to face support, scheduled appointments, or clinical advice about autism, diagnosis or behaviour.

Who can get help from the National Autistic Society's Parent to Parent Helpline?

The helpline is available to parents and carers of autistic children (including grown up children) who are living in the UK. We are here to give emotional support to parents and carers whose children have a diagnosis of autism, are awaiting a diagnostic assessment and those with identified signs of autism, for whom a diagnostic assessment may be helpful.

The Call

Parents receive a one-off call from a volunteer which normally lasts up to 45 minutes. Calls take place between 9.00 am and 8.00 pm, Monday to Friday. We are unable to schedule calls. Parents can indicate on the referral form whether they want to permit us to leave a voicemail.

The volunteer gives the parent space to talk and encouragement if they need it. They support the parent in identifying key issues and possible support strategies.

Follow Up Email

Volunteers send all parents a follow up email with links to resources and information from the National Autistic Society on topics such as anxiety, bullying or sensory issues. The volunteer and parent will discuss what information may be useful to the family.

Requesting a call

If you would like a call, please click here⁸ and fill in your details. The waiting time for a call is up to 20 working days.

Parents who have called Parent to Parent have told us:

“It was nice to talk to someone who understands and doesn't try to fix things.”

“I can't believe she was a volunteer. She handled the call so professionally. She was a great listener, thinking all the time and really empathising with both me and my daughter. Such a valuable call. I'm so grateful.”

“It helped to know you are not alone and someone understands.”

“I know you don't know me, but you said the right words, I will always remember this call.”

Inclusive Fitness at Life Leisure Houldsworth Village



Article by Phillip Sutton, Inclusion Officer - with thanks!

Life Leisure are introducing an Inclusive Fitness program at their Houldsworth Village gym for those with disabilities and additional needs aged 13+ who would like to use the gym in an adapted environment.

This means quieter times, no music, easily accessible, trained staff etc.

- Trafford Directory | Inclusive Fitness⁹

They will be held on Saturdays at 12:30pm. The afternoon will consist of a ‘Welcome Session’ which is an introduction to the gym environment, with up to 4 welcome sessions available for FREE to each individual.

From 2:30pm-4pm the gym will remain an adapted environment with a coach at hand for assistance.

If this is something you or someone you know may be interested in please contact Inclusion Officer phillip.sutton@lifeleisure.net¹⁰ or head to <https://www.lifeleisure.net/inclusion/> for information on more inclusive sessions.

⁸<https://www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/help-and-support/parent-to-parent-helpline>

⁹<https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/service.page?id=Zm5lJGdsdBU>

¹⁰<mailto:phillip.sutton@lifeleisure.net>



3 - A man in a wheelchair using fitness equipment with a coach

Other activities running include:

- Trafford Directory | SEND Family Swim¹¹
- Trafford Directory | SEND Family Inflatable Swim¹²
- Trafford Directory | SEND Stay & Play¹³

Trafford Parents Forum



TRAFFORD PARENTS FORUM

¹¹<https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/service.page?id=dE41LSimXiA>

¹²<https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/service.page?id=OSTcfCsYPKU>

¹³<https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/service.page?id=cD2iaEu6SrQ>

Trafford parents supporting Trafford parents who have children and young people with SEN, Disability and/or additional needs.

Being the parent or carer of a child with special needs can be a lonely, demanding and frustrating experience. We believe it is vital that parents have a meaningful voice, in these difficult times, and we are working towards a real partnership of parents and professionals, in the key areas that affect us.

Apart from the big stuff, we also want the forum to be a source of help, advice and support for parents. That could be anything from a cup of coffee to parent training.

See our Latest Newsletter¹⁴ for more about:

- Our term time drop ins, we will also be hosting evening and dad drop ins this half term!
- STEP Support Sessions for Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independent Payments application forms.
- EBSNA - Emotionally Based School Non-Avoidance
- The latest on our Wellbeing Activities
- Essential support information for our families

Get in touch!

Become a member today | Trafford Parents Forum¹⁵

Trafford Parents Forum Closed Parent Carer Group | Facebook¹⁶

Sign up to our email list: engagement@traffordparentsforum.com¹⁷

¹⁴<https://www.traffordparentsforum.com/>

¹⁵<https://www.traffordparentsforum.com/pages/become-a-member-today>

¹⁶<https://www.facebook.com/groups/707229499365639>

¹⁷<mailto:engagement@traffordparentsforum.com>

Kooth parent carer workshops



The banner features a dark teal background with white text. On the left is a QR code. In the center, two rounded rectangular boxes provide dates and times: a teal box for 'Monday April 22nd 1 - 2 pm' and an orange box for 'Thursday April 25th 6 - 7 pm'. On the right, an illustration shows a woman in a blue shirt and orange pants sitting at a desk with a computer monitor, books, and a plant. The Kooth logo is in the top right. At the bottom, logos for Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership, GMCA, and NHS are displayed.

Support for Parents and Carers

Free online session on supporting your children through their exams

go.kooth.com/Mcku

Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership

GMCA GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

NHS in Greater Manchester

4 - In April we're running webinars specifically to **help parents and carers support children sitting exams**. Click below to book a spot!

Mon 22 Apr. 1-2pm¹⁸

Thu 25 Apr. 6-7pm¹⁹

SEND What's On



See what's on for you and your families throughout the year at SEND What's On²⁰ which includes activities, events and training.

This page is updated on an ongoing basis, so you can check in whenever you like!

If you have any suggestions for this page, please contact us:

¹⁸https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzCwZBLgkBAa0zO5_C3grLjWE9VGNd8h7wbfODX4gIglBogLw/vjwform?usp=sf_link

¹⁹https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdzCwZBLgkBAa0zO5_C3grLjWE9VGNd8h7wbfODX4gIglBogLw/vjwform?usp=sf_link

²⁰<https://www.trafforddirectory.co.uk/kb5/trafford/fsd/advice.page?id=RMJRYmYSgBY>

FIS@trafford.gov.uk²¹ or 0161 912 1053.

We also promote events to our social media channels so you can more easily see what's on, no matter where you are.

So please like or follow to keep *LINK*ed up!

Socials: Facebook²² | X²³ | Instagram²⁴ | youtube²⁵

What do you think?



We hope that you liked this edition of the Link Newsletter and found it easy to read, interesting and accessible.

If you have any thoughts or comments - or you have suggestions for things you want to see - please let us know:

Trafford Family Information Service

Telephone: 0161 912 1053

Email: FIS@trafford.gov.uk²⁶

Socials: Facebook²⁷ | X (twitter.com)²⁸ | Instagram²⁹ | youtube³⁰



5 - Trafford FIS logo

²¹<mailto:FIS@trafford.gov.uk>

²²<https://www.facebook.com/TraffordFIS>

²³<https://twitter.com/TraffordFIS>

²⁴<https://www.instagram.com/trafford.fis>

²⁵<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzPf8N1dTqPa9m6Q7IOSGqQ>

²⁶<mailto:FIS@trafford.gov.uk>

²⁷<https://www.facebook.com/TraffordFIS>

²⁸<https://twitter.com/TraffordFIS>

²⁹<https://www.instagram.com/trafford.fis>

³⁰<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzPf8N1dTqPa9m6Q7IOSGqQ>