

Trafford Parent Partnership Service

Special Educational Needs Information and Support



Special Educational Needs Newsletter

Summer Term 2009

New Look Website

**For the parents
and carers of
children who have
special educational
needs**



Parent Partnership Service Goes **Green**

Get your newsletter by
e-mail and help save
our planet.

If you would prefer to
get an electronic
newsletter, please
e-mail the Parent
Partnership Service,
with your full name, at
parentpartnership@trafford.gov.uk
and we will add your
details to our mailing
list.



We have a new and improved website

We also hope to launch a new e-forum in the near future.
This will be a place where you can log on and chat about things
that are important to you, with parents who are in a similar
situation.

The forum will be completely confidential, as users will create
their own username and password.

The forum will be moderated by us.

Visit: www.traffordparentpartnership.co.uk

We are interested in your comments about our website.

Let us know what you think, email us at:

parentpartnership@trafford.gov.uk

Steering Group

Our steering group meet regularly to discuss how we can continue to improve the service we give to parents. Our Steering Group is currently full but if there is anything you would like us to discuss please email your questions to us at

parentpartnership@trafford.gov.uk or you can phone us on 912 3150

We will be offering a variety of events for children and parents in the autumn term:

Travel Training events for parents.

Social Events such as 'Pamper Days' for parents & a 'Play Day' for children.

For more information about the events or to download a copy of the meeting minutes visit:

www.traffordparentpartnership.co.uk

New Parents Guide

We are in the process of re-writing our Parents guide to Annual reviews. The new version will be called 'A Parent's Guide to Changing School for Children with Special Educational Needs'

The booklet will cover what happens when your child changes from infant to junior school or primary to secondary school as there are special procedures in place for children who are moving or changing school if they have a statement of special educational needs.

We hope the revised booklet will be available in print from September 2009. It will be available to download on our website soon.

For more information visit: traffordparentpartnership.co.uk

SEN Mediation and SEND Tribunals

The Parent Partnership Service organise two levels of mediation for Parents who are unhappy with LA decisions about their child's special educational needs.

For refusal to assess, we have a meeting with a senior officer to discuss the case and to present any further information. The outcomes of the meetings are recorded.

With other cases, such as placement issues, we can organise an independent mediator to come and organise the meeting.

We try to arrange meetings in a venue where the parent feels comfortable.

We have organised three mediation sessions for parents during the Spring Term.

If you would like to find out more about SEN Mediation please contact us on:

0161 912 3150

SEND Tribunals

We have not attended any Tribunals with parents during this time. We did support a parent to prepare some information for a Tribunal in January, but were not required to attend.

Free Pamper Service

Talbot House is a charity and support centre run by parents, for the parents of children with learning or physical disabilities.

They would like to offer any parent or carer the opportunity to take advantage of their free pamper service.

Days are as follows:

Monday — Reike
Tuesday — Massage, Waxing, Facials, Nails
Wednesday — Massage, Waxing, Facials, Nails
Thursday — Massage, Waxing, Facials, Nails
And every alternate Friday and Sunday

There is no need to book, just go along.

10am-3pm

at Talbot House, Monsall Street, Harpurhey, Manchester, M40 8QF

Phone **0161 203 4095** for more details.



**We are hoping to arrange a Pamper session in Trafford for parents.
 Keep checking our website for more details.**

PPS Information Boards

The Parent Partnership information boards can be found in some of our Trafford Schools.

If you would like a Parent Partnership information board in your school please phone Amanda Window on 912 1091



SENFSG

Special Educational Needs Families Support Group have moved.

**Their new address is
 112 Flixton Road
 Urmston
 Manchester
 M41 5AL**



**Contact: Marsha White
 Phone: 0161 755 3482
 07990 594 060**

Is your child starting secondary school?

If your child is starting secondary school in September you might be interested in our booklet
 'Tips for Parents—When Your Child Starts Secondary School'

This booklet gives parents tips about:

Problems
 Homework

Your Child finding their way around school
 Getting the school to recognise your child's needs
 Ways of building your child's confidence

If you would like a copy please phone Amanda Window on 912 1091

There is a booklet available that has been designed by year 7 pupils at various Trafford secondary schools. It is designed to give your child an idea of secondary school life.

If you would like a copy, phone Amanda Window on 912 1091



The Lamb Inquiry - Trafford Parents' Questionnaire Results

Recently you might have heard of the Lamb Inquiry. Part of this Inquiry is to look at parents' experience of special educational needs provision, statutory assessments, issuing of statements and appealing to the Tribunal.

We sent questionnaires out to 222 random parents, so that we could find out what is happening in schools, from the parents' point of view. 52 have been returned. The majority of the responses are very positive about the support that their child receives in school in both local mainstream, special and out of Borough provision.

However, the top ten most common concerns were as follows:

- Parents not receiving paperwork before the Annual Review.
- Parents not knowing, in advance, who had been invited to the annual review.
- Lack of training for teachers and SEN staff in some mainstream schools.
- Qualifications and experience of support staff, was raised about employees in mainstream schools.
- Lack of contact with support staff in mainstream schools, with several parents saying they had never met the people who were supporting their children.
- Parents not being informed about changes in their child's support.
- Homework not being differentiated for their child (mainly in primary mainstream schools).
- There were a few comments about schools not using the home school book effectively.
- Quantification of support for speech and language, hydrotherapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy not being specified in special school statements.
- A couple of parents very anxious about options available after their child left Pictor School.

We will be producing a more detailed report in our next newsletter.

Lamb Inquiry—Parents' experiences of SEN Tribunals

The Lamb Inquiry has been seeking feedback on the new rules and operations of the SEND tribunal. Some of the comments they have received include:

- Overall, feedback is positive, particularly in regards to the new case management process.

Some areas of concern were:

- The number of different deadlines in the process have been stressful for some parents.
- Paperwork required and/or requested was repetitive.
- Judicial directions given over the phone were not specific enough.
- The Tribunal Judge, in a telephone case management hearing, clearly knew the local authority representative which made the parents feel uncomfortable.
- Adaptations for a partially deaf parent for a telephone hearing were not made properly despite prior notification.

If you have been to an SEN Tribunal and have any feedback about the process then please let us know, so we can feed it back into the National Inquiry.

Education Advice by TEXT: Ask ACE



ACE's **free**, independent education advice service is now available by text message.

Text the keyword **ASKACE** to **68808** and follow the instructions.

If you want to ask us a specific question about any education problem, **please text the keyword ASK followed by a space then your question** - please keep it to one text (160 characters) and don't add any characters like dots or hyphens after the keyword.

Answers to questions sent using the ASK keyword are available Mon-Fri (10am-5pm), all other options are available 24 hours a day.

For advice on specific topics, including ACE's series of tips by text, send the relevant keyword from the list below:

Keyword	Subject
ADMISSIONS	School admissions and appeals
ATTENDANCE	School attendance issues
BULLYING	Bullying at school
SEN	Special educational needs



You can also order a free advice booklet by text.

<http://www.ace-ed.org.uk/advice-about-education-for-parents/education-advice-by-sms-askace.htm>



SPACE is a **Social Place for Asperger's Children to Enjoy!** ASGMA offer a group for under 10's with Aspergers Syndrome or high functioning autism, with their parents or carers.

For more details please phone Kerrie Wilson or Tony Turnbull on 0161 866 8483

Autistic Society Greater Manchester Area

1114, Chester Road, Stretford, Greater Manchester, M32 0HL

E-mail: information@asgma.org.uk

Displays and Information Events

The Parent Partnership Service are able to offer their time and expertise to attend school information events, particularly Y6 transition to secondary school information days and open evenings.

We can bring along our stand, a range of promotional goodies and a range of information leaflets and booklets for parents and children.

If you would like us to attend an event at your school or if you would like more information please phone us on 912 3150.

Exclusion from school of children aged four to seven

Ofsted recently produced a report about exclusion of this age group. Most schools do not exclude any children aged four to seven but a small proportion do.

Ofsted have spoken with Headteachers about why some schools exclude and others don't, and they have produced a report.

What works?

- Where exclusion is seen as the last resort.
- Using the SEAL programme (social and emotional aspects of learning in school) and encouraging good behaviour.
- Breaks and lunchtimes are well organised with well trained staff.
- Involving children in designing rewards and class rules.
- **Parents were valued and welcome in school.**

Facts about the excluded 4- 7 year olds

- Most of the children were boys.
- Almost half of the children had a statement of SEN (Special Educational Needs).
- Most children had been identified as having some special educational needs.

For more information on the full report go to:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/The-exclusion-from-school-of-children-aged-four-to-seven>

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Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this newsletter is accurate and up to date at the time of printing.

Please note that Trafford Parent Partnership Service and Trafford Children and Young Peoples Service have no responsibility for the organisations listed nor the information they provide.



**Cherry Manor Centre
Cherry Lane
Sale
M33 4GY**

Geraldine English
912 3150

Nicola Montes
912 1050

Amanda Window
912 1091

Textbox: 0161 912 2102 Ext. 3150
Selection option 6 when prompted.

Email:
parentpartnership@trafford.gov.uk

Website:
www.traffordparentpartnership.co.uk