



TRAFFORD PARENTS FORUM

## WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO TRAFFORD PARENTS FORUM LATEST NEWS ROUND UP

### **Directors Update**

Welcome to Trafford Parents Forum Winter Newsletter 2024.

Well, what an Autumn Term we have all had! The term has been incredibly packed, with our range of events running all the way through. From busy drop ins each week (with a range of speakers including Family Information Service, SENDIASS and more); supporting with The Change Partnership Programme, to our new Dad's Group being formed by our very own Trafford Dads!

We have been visiting schools across the borough; taking part in the SEND Week of Action: as well as our very own TPF Marketplace which was a great success.

Our most recent Tesco donation has become our Christmas Fun with Home for a Gnome, check out Facebook and Instagram for our clues to guess who have kidnapped the Gnomes.

The PINS and NiS projects have kicked off in certain Trafford Schools, read on for more information below.

Our STEP Team have been ever-busy supporting parent carers and their families, please find their termly update below.

We hope you all have a rested and safe Christmas. Wishing you all a Happy New Year for 2025.

The TPF Team



In the latest TPF Newsletter, you'll find: -

- An update on our drop ins and engagement
- An update from STEP
- NEW Dad's Group info.
- Christmas Hampers
- Essential Support Information for our families
- and much more.....

The drop ins have been a hive of learning and shared experience. We have welcomed SENDIASS, Trafford Children's Clinical Commissioning, GYMN SEND Youth Panel and Family Information Service.

We also welcomed Karen Samples - Director of Education, Quality, Standards and Performance and Shona Gallagher - Trafford's SEND Improvement Lead, for a 'So What' Drop In to find out how your voice is helping to shape Trafford Services.

We also supported Trafford's Commissioners with their Short Break Sessions at the Nebula Centre which were great over the summer holidays.

SEND Week of Action took place in November with TPF hosting our own Marketplace, where Trafford Services came along to talk to our families about what they do and how they can be supported.

The Forum was really pleased to promote and support Trafford Carer's Centre and Carer's Rights Day at Stretford Public Hall, what a lovely day meeting carers from all over the borough.

The Drop Ins have now finished for the Christmas break, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a good start to the New Year of 2025.

## Some Memories Captured this term



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# STEP

## Stronger Together Empowering Parents

STEP is run by a small team, Clair Domville (left), Emily Heywood (right) and Gill Thompson (centre).

STEP are a support service within Trafford Parents Forum who have been active in Trafford since May 2020 and have supported around 400 families.

At STEP we provide 1:1, individualised, targeted support and guidance for parent/carers of children and young people with SEND in Trafford.

We have a team of Senior Co-ordinators who are supported by a number of established volunteers.

### SUPPORT OFFERED BY STEP:

At STEP we provide support such as:

- Emotional support
- Exploring the world of SEND
- Sharing information and resources around SEND
- Help Navigating the Local Offer
- Support communicating with services/schools
- Preparing for/support in low-level meetings
- Support with Benefit Application forms e.g. DLA/PIP
- Preparing for Transitions
- Understanding behaviour
- Cost of Living Practical support
- Guidance around difficulties with Attendance

**Please note: We cannot support around EHCP's**



### UPDATE FROM STEP THIS TERM

STEP have had the busiest term yet – offering support to Trafford parent carers of SEND children and young people.

We have focused on parent carer wellbeing this term and have offered a range of virtual and face to face group peer support sessions, covering different days and times, including evening sessions, to try to accommodate as many parent carers as possible.

This half term we have had over 200 requests for support and have provided 20 Christmas Hampers and food parcels to some of our families through the nominations form sent out last month.

2025 brings our 5-year anniversary in May since the start of STEP – we look forward to sharing our plans to celebrate this achievement in the New Year.

A huge thank you to our amazing mentors who give their time and lived experience and are such a support for our team.

**We would like to send best wishes and a restful holiday period to all Trafford SEND families...**



Did you know TPF is a Foodbank referrer? Please don't struggle in silence, get in contact with our team at our Tuesday drop in, through our STEP service or email us at [hello@traffordparentsforum.com](mailto:hello@traffordparentsforum.com).

Self-Refer to STEP via: <https://www.traffordparentsforum.com/pages/step>

Contact us: [step@traffordparentsforum.com](mailto:step@traffordparentsforum.com) | Facebook: @STEPtraffordparentsforum

Twitter: @StrongerStep | Insta: steptrafford

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## Neurodiversity in Schools (formerly known as Autism in Schools) Project

and

## PINS (Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools) Project

We are thrilled to be working with a new set of schools here in Trafford as part of the Neurodiversity in Schools Project..

The Project is an NHS led Project which brings together schools, parent carers, Mental Health support and Peer support for our children and young people with the aim of transforming the hearts and minds across the whole school to improve the experience and outcomes for our neurodivergent young people and those with social communication difficulties. This year we are working with Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, Sale Grammar School, Urmston Grammar School and Trafford Alternative Education Provision.

The TPF Team are leading the project from the parent carer aspect starting with Sessions 1 and 2 in the New Year to meet other parents and your SENCO. Session 1 will give an introduction to the Neurodiversity in Schools Programme and will be offering a chance for you to share your experiences so far. So if your school has been selected for the project and you are a parent carer of a child with SEND, look out for invitations to our first parent carer sessions coming through in the next few weeks.

The PINS Project is a **new national programme** that aims to support the education and health needs of neurodiverse children in schools through partnership approach working with local authorities and parent carer forums. Here in Trafford, there have been 6 schools selected to start it off: All Saints Primary School, Broadheath Primary School, Broomwood Primary School, Limetree Academy, Partington Central Academy and Worthington Primary School. Families at these schools have completed our surveys to let us know their experiences. In the New Year, we will be meeting those families to work through their experiences to help shape our children's future.

Please keep an eye on our website and social media pages for more information in the new school year.



This Winter we have reached out to our Community - families and companies, for donations of food, toys, presents for our deserving and in need families this Christmas.

Well, we have been blown away by everyone's contributions, we have received enough to fulfill our family nominations with a lovely food hamper and a present hamper too.



We would like to thank all our Trafford Families, ASDA, Tesco Altrincham, NAMCO, Trafford Foobank South, Tropic Skincare, Full Circle Funeral Services, Nails etc, The Little Nut, Artistic Adventures and Creation Station Altrincham for their donations this winter.



## NEW: DAD's Group



We are really excited to announce that our new Dad's Group has been established by our very own Trafford Dads: Garry and Paul.

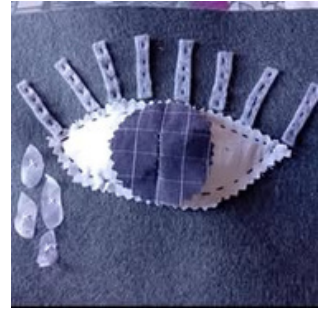
Keep an eye out on our social media and website for dates and location details - the first meet up is being planned for January.

They are looking forward to meeting our Trafford Dads who have children and young people with SEND to share experiences with.

## I SEE you Project

You may have seen on our social media pages that we took part in the I SEE you project with Artist - Lois Blackburn.

As part of our ongoing aim to support the Wellbeing of our parent carers, the project allowed the parents who took part the time to relax whilst they created their 'eye'.



### Home for a Gnome

Trafford Services have kidnapped our Tesco Gnomes, your guesses are still coming in

### Christmas Window Activity

Thank you so much to our families who have lovingly decorated the TPF windows. If you are passing, come and see their creations.

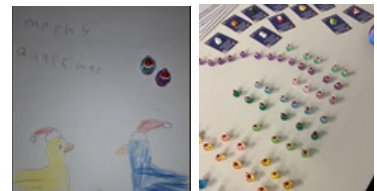


### Christmas Tree Festival

We have taken part in St Matthew's Church Christmas Tree Festival this year. Thank you for our donated tree.

### Merry Quackmas

Our fab young people of Trafford have been hiding our Christmas Ducks in the office and in their homes. We're excited to see where they land!



## Your Wellbeing and Essential Support

If you need us at TPF, please don't hesitate to contact us, but also know that Trafford Council has their own [support page](#) with lots of help and links as to where you can get support.

If you need any general help, Trafford Directory provides information for Trafford families, young people and caregivers, about local services including support. Through this you will find the [SEND Local Offer](#) – if you haven't visited yet, it's worth having a look to see Trafford's full offer of support for families of children with SEND.

During holiday periods for urgent support, please contact Trafford Children's First Response on 0161 912 5125 during office hours Mon-Fri 8.30-4.30pm or 0161 912 2020 out of hours – Emergency Duty Team.

Join us: [www.traffordparentsforum.com](http://www.traffordparentsforum.com)

Contact us: [engagement@traffordparentsforum.com](mailto:engagement@traffordparentsforum.com) | Facebook: @Traffordparentsforum

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