

Dear parents,

You may be aware that Trafford Council is one of the local authorities selected by the Government to deliver a new programme to test new ways of working with children and young people with Special Educational Needs.

This programme is part of the reforms being implemented by the government that have been reported in the media.

The programme is about making sure there is an improvement to the support given to children and young people with Special Educational Needs. The programme also seeks to ensure that the support given is consistent across the whole of the country. Crucial to the success of any change is the involvement of parents, carers and young people and Trafford Parent Carer forum has played – and will continue to play – a key role in this work. The lived experience of Trafford SEND families is very important to us and it is only by working in partnership that we can ensure that your experiences help us all influence those changes needed to improve the system for children and young people.

Together, with Manchester, Oldham and Rochdale councils, we will form the Greater Manchester region for the Change Programme Partnership. This partnership is one of a number across England that will help develop new national standards as part of the government reforms in how we help young people with Special Educational Needs.

This work will bring together education, health and social care to plan how local services can be delivered in a coordinated way to try and improve the experience for families who often experience services as disjointed.

The programme is supported by additional money, £70m nationally, and will start in September.

We very much see this as an opportunity to continue the work we have started to further strengthen our joint working with our parents, carers and children and young people and we will of course share further information when available.