

AUTISM GM NEWSLETTER



www.autismgm.co.uk

Summer Edition



Welcome to the GMAC Spring/Summer 2020 edition.

The world has literally turned upside down since our last edition in December 2019, and we really hope that you are doing ok during this time. Just a quick reminder that Abi and I are happy to chat if you need this either via the phone or email. We are not office based at the moment so the messages to the GMAC phone goes through to voice mail but we get those sent as emails straight away so please do leave us a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

During these few weeks we have been hearing from lots of people, and whilst some of you seem to have been enjoying aspects of lockdown, for many this has been a really tough few months. Ben Stone has written us an article for this edition talking about his experiences during this time and we are really grateful that he has shared his experiences with us. I am collecting other stories from the pandemic as well so we can understand how it has affected autistic people and their families, so if you would like to share your "Covid Stories" with us we would love to hear from you. This information will be shared with commissioners and autism leads in GM as well as with a group called the GM Equalities Alliance who want to understand the impact of the pandemic on health inequalities. Finally the NAS has just launched a national survey on this issue, the link is here and it would be great if as many of you as possible could fill this survey in. Here is the link is here: <https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/media-centre/news/2019-10-07-help-us-shape-campaigning-work/public-attitudes-survey.aspx>

In the meantime please stay safe and stay in touch,

Mari and Abi

AUTISMGM Newsletter

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Greater Manchester Autism Consortium Project

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Greater Manchester Autism Consortium

and National Autistic Society,

Empress Business Centre

380, Chester Road, Suite 4.4

Old Trafford

Manchester M16 9EA

0161 998 4667

Update on Greater Manchester Autism Consortium Project for Partnership Boards and strategy groups

-June 2020



Update on Greater Manchester Autism Consortium Project for Partnership Boards and strategy groups –June 2020

1. Introduction

This is my second Partnership Board update since Lockdown started in March. As I write this, we are on the 11th week of lockdown. We have just started to see some easing of the restrictions, and this week schools have started to open up to people beyond the keyworker and vulnerable children. With this in mind, we are now turning our attention to this next phase of the crisis and GMAC are trying to work out what we can do differently going forward whilst we are still far from operating as business as usual. The Department of Health and Social care and NHS England have asked every locality and region to write plans for “Recovery” and this is what we also need to do with reference to the work of the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium too.

2. GMAC response to Covid 19 crisis

As you know Abi and I have been home based since 16th March and Emma has been on maternity leave since January. We are still taking calls and responding to emails. The system is that the calls will lead to a voicemail and those voicemails are emailed to me as files. The message from us sounds rather strange as it is an electronic voice but it is still GMAC, so do leave us a message. I get the email within minutes and I am checking email throughout the day.

Just a reminder that these are our contact details;

0161 998 4667

mari.saeki@nas.org.uk or abigail.gibson@nas.org.uk

We have started to collect anonymised stories from autistic people and their family members about how this crisis is affecting them. This is especially important, as we know that the difficulties experienced by autistic people are often hidden, and therefore missed by statutory and mainstream services.

Please do share your own stories if you are happy to. I will use these as examples when I speak to commissioners and service providers. There is also a GM group looking at how people with protected characteristics (as defined by the Equality Act), might be disproportionately affected by the crisis because of existing health inequalities or social inequalities and I would like to share some examples of how autistic people are being affected in those forums too.

During this time, we are also trying to keep people updated with relevant help and support in relation to the Corona Virus, and on important policy and legal updates for

Update on Greater Manchester Autism Consortium Project for Partnership Boards and strategy groups

-June 2020, continued



autistic people and their families. I am trying to do this no more than once a week. If it is all getting too much and you want me to remove your name from the mailing lists, please do not hesitate to tell me! I understand that too much information can be overwhelming.

I am still in weekly contact with the LD and Autism commissioners and providers and we are sharing information and learning via Virtual meetings.

GMAC is also getting regular update from the GM Disabled People's Panel and the GMAC Advisory group member Peter Marshal is attending the weekly Zoom meetings to ensure autistic people's needs are being considered.

I am having bi-weekly updates with Lynn James Jenkinson from Pathways Associates about the issues that autistic and learning disabled people might be having during this time. Don not forget that they are also producing daily videos on the Corona Virus. These are really clear and helpful. To get them all subscribe to them on You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/user/nwttdt>

2. GM Autism Strategy

Although none of the strategy groups have been able to meet since 2nd March when the Criminal Justice group met, recently I have been meeting virtually with all the strategy work stream leads and we are currently in the process of reframing all the work using the following headings.

Phase 1- How has the crisis been affecting the specific area of this work stream? Give examples of concerns but also of the examples of good practice that has emerged.

Phase 2- What can we do in the medium term to start working on the most urgent bits of strategic work and in a way that might support those in crisis now including learning form the good practice?

Phase 3- How and when can we get back to the strategic plans we had made before and do we need to amend any of those plans now?

With those in mind, the following is what we have discussed so far:

The Autism Transition Implementation group- This crisis has come at a difficult time for all those in transition between one provision and another, as all the transition visits and meetings have had to move onto a virtual platform or carried out over the phone. For some, this has been less stressful than actual visits, but it does raise questions about how easy it will be for those people to go into a new building, meet new people when they have only "met" or ""seen" places virtually. The group had been working on some resources before this crisis and we hope to pick this back up as soon as possible, working in virtual groups if needed.

The LD and Autism Employment Implementation group- The group have been able to continue the GM Enabling Employment campaign thanks to the incredible dedication of Seamus and Renardo who have been producing new films even in the lockdown. We think that this group will have some of the biggest challenges post Covid due to the economic situation, so we feel that building relationships with employers via the Employer Forum may be a huge priority.

Update on Greater Manchester Autism Consortium Project for Partnership Boards and strategy groups

-June 2020, continued



The LD and Autism Housing Implementation group- The group have asked for feedback on housing related issues and had some feedback about people in real crisis. The issues that are coming up are not new issues, but the lock-down has exacerbated the stress for many people. The group will try to find some short-term goals that might support this.

The LD and Autism Reasonable Adjustment in acute settings Implementation group- I have been meeting with the chairs fortnightly to discuss how this crisis is affecting the acute hospital setting. The group had been working on a Reasonable Adjustments card before the crisis and we think that this is work we should start again soon, as it is highly relevant in a health crisis.

The LD and Autism Criminal Justice System Implementation group- The group had previously been working on a resources aimed at police who carry out interviews with autistic and learning disabled people. This will carry on. The group are also looking at a training offer and expanding the voice of lived experience within that training.

Diagnosis- This is not a strategy group as such but recently we had a meeting about how the diagnostic teams are managing to do diagnostic assessments at this time. It was agreed that this group would meet fortnightly, to share good practice and ideas and to develop some GM guidelines on doing assessments with all the restrictions.

4. GMAC Advisory groups and getting wider views

We had to cancel the last two meetings. We will pick this up after the lockdown but I have been asking people to share their own stories about the crisis. We will consider how we take the work of these two groups forward in the medium term. We also need to ensure that the advisory group members are given the chance to contribute to the GM and Locality Recovery plans and we are in discussion about this with the GM Autism and LD programme.

5. Parent Seminars

The Parent facilitators who usually run the GMAC Parent seminars have been getting their heads together to try to get the Managing Anger and Sensory seminars online as we have had to cancel all the face-to-face sessions of 2020 -2021 so far due to the crisis.

The group are making great progress with this work but the technical challenges are many and varied so it's proving to be a bigger job than it first appeared. The sessions will consist of a recorded seminar shared first, followed by a webinar for discussion and sharing with other parents via MS teams. We hope to be piloting these sessions soon so by the next partnership board update I hope to be able to report on the first sessions. We will be offering the first places to the people who had been due to go on the sessions that we had to cancel.

Over the coming months we intend to work out how to put the transition seminars and the Carer resilience seminars online as well.

6. Training update.

The GM Autism Training group has shared the New Draft GM Training Standards. As we had no further comment on those standards after sending them out to the localities, we will finalise the standards document now.

Greater Manchester Joint Training Partnership are also developing online learning to replace all the face-to-face sessions for the near future.

Mari Saeki, Project Lead GMAC 4th June 2020



Since the coronavirus outbreak, the Government has introduced a number of restrictions on people's day to day lives to prevent the virus from spreading. Some of the rules introduced in March, were relaxed from 13 May. We have outlined these changes, and the impact that they might have on autistic people and their families below. You can also read the Government guidance on what you can and can't do.

- [Guidance from the Government](#)
- [Downloadable resources for going out](#)
- [Interactions with the police](#)
- [What we're doing](#)

In March 2020, the Government put in place a lockdown across the UK, which meant that everyone had to stay home, except for going out to get essentials like food, going out for exercise or if they were key workers. This was to help stop the spread of covid-19.

From the 13 May, the Government relaxed some of the rules about going out in England, and this means there have been some changes to what you can and can't do.

People still need to stay in their home as much as possible and keep two metres apart from other people outside home. Some people who are at very high risk of getting really ill from the coronavirus, because they have an underlying health condition, should '[shield](#)', which means they should stay indoors to protect themselves.

[Guidance from the Government](#)

The Government has introduced guidance to help stop coronavirus from spreading, which says you should still stay at home as much as possible, and you should only leave for the limited reasons. When you do go outside, you need to stay two metres away from people who don't live in your household. You can go out for:

- **Shopping for things like food and medicine**
- **Exercise, for example running, walking, or cycling.** You can now go outside to exercise as many times as you like but you can't use playgrounds or outside gyms. You can now play team sports outside but only with people who live in your household. You can also go outside your usual area to go and exercise.
- **Spending time outdoors.** You can now go outside to sit in a park, for example, and you can also meet someone outdoors in a public place if you stay two metres away. But, you should not meet with more than one person at a time who isn't from your household.
- **Any medical needs,** including to donate blood, get medical support for things other than the coronavirus, or to support someone who's vulnerable.



- **Travelling to get to work.** If you can work from home you should do so. But, if you can't and your workplace is open, the Government is now encouraging you to return to work. Try to avoid using public transport where possible and keep two metres away from people who don't live in your household.

You have to wear a face covering on public transport unless you have a good reason not to. The Government has given [some examples](#) of when you don't have to wear a face covering, including:

- If you are younger than 11 years old
- If you can't put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability
- If putting on, wearing or removing a face covering will cause you severe distress
- If you are travelling with or helping someone who relies on lip reading to communicate
- To avoid harm or injury to yourself or others.

This means that some autistic people who would struggle to keep a face covering on, or would get really distressed with one on are exempt. The Government's list is not exhaustive, which means there could be other reasons why you don't have to wear a face covering. We have told the Government that transport staff and the public need to know about these exemptions so that autistic people aren't challenged unfairly. You might be asked why you are not wearing a face covering, and you can tell them about these exemptions. **[We have produced an information sheet that you can share with transport staff if you are asked why you are not wearing a face covering and you can also download our I am Autistic Card. For parents we also have My Child is Autistic Card while This Person is Autistic Card, is for those who provide care and support to autistic adult.]**

Download [information sheet](#)

Download our [I am Autistic Card](#)

Download [My Child is Autistic Card](#)

Download [This Person is Autistic Card](#)

If you can wear a face covering, it is important that you do on public transport, as this could help stop the spread of coronavirus.

The Government also recommends you wear a face covering when you're in an enclosed space (like a small shop) and you can't keep two metres apart from people who don't live in your household. This could be on public transport if you need to use it, or in a shop. This could be a home-made mask or bandana. It doesn't need to be the type of mask hospital staff wear but it should cover your nose and mouth. You need to wash your hands before and after putting your face covering on and taking it off, and try not to touch it in between times.



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From Monday 15 June, the government made it compulsory for passengers on public transport – buses, trams and trains – to wear a face covering.

While we expect everyone to wear a face covering if they can, we want to reassure you that anyone who has a justifiable reason on the grounds of health or disability will be free to travel without wearing one.

Journey Assistance Card (Exemptions Card)

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) has produced a flash card for those exempt from wearing face coverings (*full list below*). The card will be available on request from our Customer Services team, which can be contacted in the following ways:

- Phone: 0161 244 1000 (Monday to Friday 7am to 8pm, weekends 8am to 8pm)

Web: [TfGM website contact form](#)

Once you've contacted the customer team, your card will be emailed to you as a file which can be printed off or shown as a flash pass on your phone.

The cards will also be available in our Travelshops across Greater Manchester.

TfGM's cards are valid across all transport modes and operators in Greater Manchester. They are discreet, easy to use and understand and can provide reassurance, especially if a person's disability is hidden. You simply show the card on request to any member of staff who may ask why you are not wearing a face covering.

If you already carry a Journey Assistance card from another operator, you can continue to use this, or you can request TFGM's card also, it is up to you. The card is not mandatory and it's also fine if you chose not to use this card, simply to explain that you are unable to wear a face covering.

I also wanted to reassure you that operators for bus, train and tram services have informed their staff to provide advice and support to passengers on protecting themselves and others while travelling, particularly those with additional needs.

Please be supportive

**I am exempt
from wearing
a face covering**



While staff may ask a passenger not wearing a face covering if they are aware that it is compulsory to wear one when using public transport, they have been advised to accept any valid reason a passenger may give for not wearing one and not to ask for further details.

We are also encouraging all passengers to be respectful and to look after each other, through passenger information, and not to challenge passengers who aren't wearing a face covering, as they may have a hidden disability or another valid reason not to do so.

Our guidance remains that people should stay at home as much as possible and only travel if necessary. And anyone who needs to travel should only use public transport if they have no other choice.

Exemptions to wearing a face covering

Government guidance published on Monday 15 June 2020 sets out that the requirement to wear a face covering does not apply to:

- Children under the age of 11.
- Transport operator employees, when they are acting in the course of their employment.
- Police officers or emergency responders such as paramedics or fire officers acting in the course of their duty.

The requirement to wear a face covering also does not apply to passengers who have a **legitimate reason not to wear one**. Legitimate reasons include:

- If you have a physical or mental illness or impairment, or a disability that means you cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering.
- If putting on, wearing or removing a face covering would cause you severe distress.
- If you are travelling with, or helping, someone who relies on lip reading or BSL to communicate.
- If you are travelling to avoid injury or escape the risk of harm, and you do not have a face covering with you.
- If you need to remove it during your journey to avoid harm or injury or the risk of harm or injury to yourself or others.
- If you need to eat, drink, or take medication you can remove your face covering.
- If you are asked to remove your face covering by a police officer or other official, for example to check your railcard.

The government's full list of exemptions, also covering travel modes such as ferries, is at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#exemptions-face-coverings>.

Further information

Anyone who would like safe travel advice and support can speak to TfGM staff at bus stations and interchanges, including at our Travelshops. Alternatively, they can contact our Customer Services team:

Phone: 0161 244 1000 (Monday to Friday 7am to 8pm, weekends 8am to 8pm)

Twitter: [@OfficialTfGM](https://twitter.com/OfficialTfGM)

Web: [TfGM website contact form](#)

Post: Transport for Greater Manchester, 2 Piccadilly Place, Manchester, M1 3BG

“We need to do more
to make sure society
works for Black
autistic people”

Over the last few weeks, we've seen a wave of protests following the tragic death of George Floyd in the United States, calling for an end to police brutality and a stop to racism in all forms. At the National Autistic Society, we've been thinking about our own role in tackling this very important issue.

We recognise that until society works for Black autistic people, we won't have succeeded. So here's what we're going to do:

- **Our new strategy:** we are currently working on a new strategy for our charity, which is split into four parts: Schools and Children's Services, Adult Social Care Services, National Services, and Corporate and Professional Services. Within each of these parts, we are committed to developing an Equality and Inclusion plan, so we can make sure we are doing the best we can for the Black, Asian and other ethnic minority (BAME) autistic people we support, for their families and for our BAME staff and volunteers. In order to be effective, these plans will acknowledge the different as well as the shared experiences of people from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups. As part of this work, we are forming a racial equality group of staff and volunteers to contribute to our thinking in this area and make sure that our new strategies are fully inclusive.

Our campaigning work: We know that much more needs to be done to create a society that works for autistic people from BAME backgrounds, and their families too. It's vital that all governments in the UK identify where there is discrimination and say what actions they will take to end it. We're calling for this to be included as a [key action](#) in the new national autism strategy in England, which is currently under review, and we'll do the same in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Sharing diverse stories: We want to continue sharing more stories from BAME autistic people and their families, and highlighting their experiences of services and support. You can read our Stories From The spectrum [here](#).

- **New BAME branches:** We also want to think about what we can do now, before our new strategy is finalised. Thanks to newly secured funding, we are working on a series of new national branches. We have started talking to BAME autistic people and their families about how some of these branches could focus on particular demographic groups. We will only do this if people tell us that it would help.



Our response to Black Lives Matter (22 June 2020) continued

Caroline Stevens, Chief Executive at the National Autistic Society said, “The worldwide protests against police brutality and racism have made us all take stock of our own roles, and what we can do better as individuals and a charity. We wanted to take time to reflect on this and begin discussions with some of our own staff, volunteers and experts in this area before we speak out about what we want to do.

“As a charity, we unequivocally stand against racism and any type of discrimination. We know we need to do more to make society work for autistic people from Black, Asian and other minority backgrounds.

“Black, Asian and other minority autistic people face extra challenges. A failure to acknowledge and understand their experience can lead to problems getting an early diagnosis and the education and social care they need.

“We are working on a new organisational strategy and we are considering as part of that how we can do better – so that our schools, social care, information, peer support and campaigning help to make society work for BAME autistic children and adults.”

[Tell us your story](#)

Please get in touch with stories@nas.org.uk if you want to share your experiences, or ideas about what we should do in this area.

The A & C Words, by Ben Stone

When the UK lockdown was announced on March 23rd, I was annoyed with The UK Government for not taking action in January by quarantining everyone coming into the UK from abroad, and for not testing them to ensure that they tested negative for Covid-19 before being released from quarantine. What was needed from the start was test, test, test and not spin, spin, spin. Had action been taken and some restrictions been enacted in January, the r rate could have been kept below 1. Instead, the virus was allowed to covertly spread from person to person, street to street, town to town and so on. Whether intentional or not, there followed a policy of 'herd immunity', allowing people with the virus to distribute it nationwide, not to mention that the virus has been spread in care homes by discharging people from hospitals into care homes without testing them and ensuring they were Covid-19 negative. The Covid genie was long gone out of the bottle by March 23rd. Because the virus is so endemic and established across the UK, the r rate is much higher, making any lifting of restrictions riskier and more tenuous.

I did not know on that Monday evening in March, the effect it would have on me. To some autistic people, the idea of a lockdown might feel beneficial as we would not have to mix with other people, or face the everyday rat race, but for me, I have been in social lockdown my entire life. Already feeling isolated, this lockdown has added an extra layer of isolation for me, placed me under 'house arrest'.

Because I don't have much in the way of a social base, or family that live close by, I have not been out since March. Going out for daily exercise when you have acute social anxiety is a paradox to say the least and yet another factor not considered towards autistic people. From my experience, autism and anxiety go hand in hand, so better considerations should have been made before enforcing a blanket-wide lockdown. Sometimes, trying to protect people whilst failing to see a bigger holistic picture actually does the opposite of protecting them.

Despite my social difficulties, I find that face to face contact with people is the best way for me, so the lockdown has had a severe effect to the extent that and apart from immediate family, I've not spoken to anyone face to face for nearly 3 months. I rely on public transport to get around, so to be told not to use public transport unless 'essential', I and many others who do not have a car have effectively been placed under 'house arrest'. Like many autistic people, I cannot use the phone, so have been significantly isolated since the lockdown started. Video games and YouTube have helped pass the time thus far.

The virus has shone a light on how the legacy of Thatcher's mass privatization and centralization of power, coupled with 10 years of austerity literally stripping public services to the bone on how dysfunctional the UK is, hence I'm not surprised it took so long to act and the high death rate. Covid-19 already feels like discriminatory disease in that it is affecting older people, BAME community, disabled people and the poorest more than other groups.

The one silver lining and one that we need to hold onto is that life post lockdown may be fairer, greener, less service based – more manufacturing based, more co-operative and power decentralized. Once restrictions are lifted, buses are running more frequently, shops are open and it's easier to meet people, I am hoping to take a small step for Ben and venture out, go shopping, meet another human being, take a photograph again! There is no doubt that Covid-19 has changed us all, but hopefully in years to come we can look back and see a legacy that beyond the pain and losses suffered at the time, in the longer term it changed us for the better.

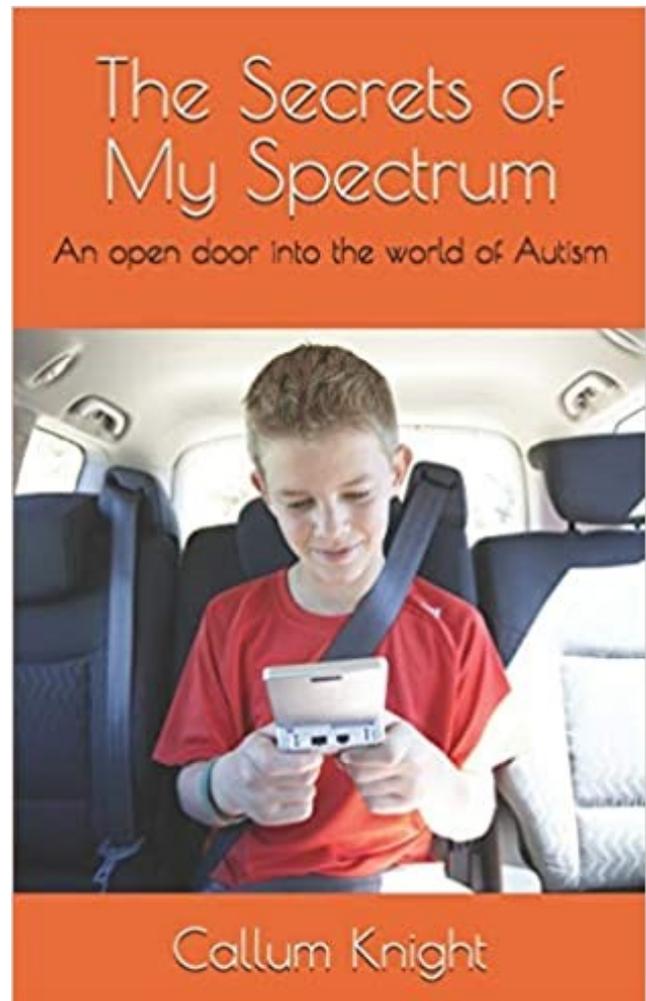
The Secrets of My Spectrum: Book Review by GMAC Team member

This is a brilliant book, advocating for children and adults on the autism spectrum. This book lays bare the significant challenges of navigating childhood from the perspective of a young person with a diagnosis of autism. It's a good read for both those with autism and their parents/carers and has the unique view point as it's written by a young person on the autism spectrum named Callum.

The information is very informative and covers topics such as growing up, being accepted, social communications, social situations and learning. There are great strategies for coping and Callum's perceptions, insights, and tips to help prevent meltdowns are very helpful.

This is a very good insight to anyone wanting information and a little insight into what an autistic person could encounter or be encountering. I like how the book is set out, very concise and also made easy to be able to dip in and out of and refer back to with sectioned bullet points, showing very helpful and clear pointers and advice.

Callum's humour and positivity shine through and I was left moved by Callum's honesty and sheer optimism to forge the best life for himself. Callum displays a great deal of self-awareness and I think the book is at large very inspirational!



If anyone has read any book as of late with an Autism theme then please do feel free to forward the details onto the GMAC admin contact as we would love to have an insight into what individuals with Autism and parents/ carers are finding helpful or simply enjoying.

Email: abigail.gibson@nas.org.uk

Other News



In addition to the information on the National Autistic Society website, Pathways are producing a daily video blog on aspects of the corona virus. Please do check them out, especially if you have a person with learning disabilities or autism at home or work and they are struggling to understand what is happening or upset. They are really clear and helpful. Thanks to Lynn and the team for producing these:

<http://pathwaysassociates.co.uk/self-advocates-and-families/news/coronavirus---daily-video-updates.html>

Baby News for GMAC!

In times of uncertainty and change, we wanted to end on a positive note, we are delighted to announce that our GMAC colleague Emma gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on valentine's day. Both Mum and baby are doing well. Emma is currently on maternity leave and will return to GMAC in the autumn.

ASD Parent Support Groups

BOLTON

Breaking Barriers

Contact: Steph Sherrat
Tel: 07717434840
Email: breakbarriers3@gmail.com

Bolton Adult Asperger Support Group

Contact: Graham Heywood
Tel: 07772547158
Email: g.heywood@gmail.com

BURY

Bury Autism/Asperger Syndrome Support Group

Contact: Chris Parkinson
Tel: 0161 763 4867
Email: burycarers@yahoo.co.uk

Bury Autism Parent Society

Contact: Joanne & Tony Moran
Tel: 0161 761 0132

MANCHESTER

Chinese Carers of Autistic Children Group

Contact: Helen Chow
Tel: 0161 228 0138

Grange School Parents Group

Contact: Laura Rhodes
Tel: 0161 498 0312
Email:
emma.caring@gmaddventures.org.uk

OLDHAM

OSCA

Contact: Marie Aspin
Tel: 07913672175

ROCHDALE

Littleborough Autism, Asperger Syndrome and ADHD Support Triangle (L.A.A.S.T)

Contact: Liesl Beckles
Tel: 07980983872
(Telephone Contact Only)

You Are Not Alone (YANA)

Monthly support group with activities for the children
Tel: 0161 655 3827

Rochdale Homestart Parent Support Group & Sam's SIBS Sibling Group

Tel: 01706 629 651 and 01706 436 143
Email:

sam.hsrb@gmail.com

www.homestartrochdale.org.uk

The Recovery Republic Well-Being Centre/Autism and Asperger's Parents Group

Contact: Carina Jackson
Tel: 01706 622 722 OR 07771523775
Email: carina.jackson@icloud.com
info@recoveryrepublic.co.uk
www.recoveryrepublic.co.uk

SALFORD

Salford Action for Autism (SAFA)

Contact: Kay
Tel: 07858 495266
www.salford-action-for-autism.com

Autism & Friends

Contact: Sandra Moore
Tel: 07544 649696

Sensory Stay and Play

Tel: 0161 778 0051
Email: belve-
dere.childrenscentre@salford.gov.uk

STOCKPORT

Stockport Autism Team Parent Support Group

Contact: Cheryl Knupfer
Email: Cheryl.knupfer@stockport.gov.uk

Stockport Carers for Adults on the Autistic Spectrum

Contact: Rayonette Jude
Tel: 0161 439 0627
Email: stockportCAAS@gmail.com

TAMESIDE

TASCA

Contact: Valerie & Neil Bayley
Tel: 077548 73480 (mon-Fri 9am-330pm only)
Email: tasca4u@ntlworld.com
www.tasca.org.uk

Tameside Asperger Syndrome Support Group

Contact: Julie Scrymgeour
Tel: 0161 716 3600
Email: Julie.scrymgeour@nhs.net

Tameside Autism Support for Parents & Carers

Contact: Gerard Ratchford
Tel: 0161 304 5364

THE AUTISTIC SOCIETY GREATER MANCHESTER AREA (ASGMA)

A group for parents of children & adults with Asperger's syndrome.

Also holds a monthly family group session on Saturday mornings.

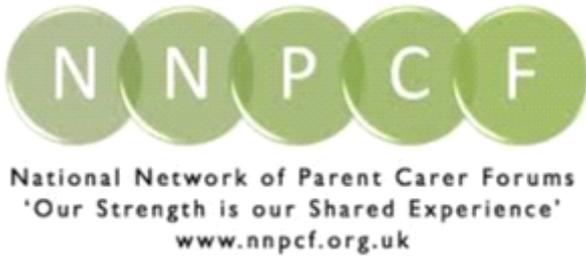
For further information regarding dates and times please contact the ASGMA Information Officer

Tel: 0161 866 8483

OR email:

information@asgma.org.uk

www.asgma.org.uk



PARENT/CARER FORUMS IN GREATER MANCHESTER

Parent Carer Forums are groups of parents and carers of disabled children who work with local authorities, education, health and other providers to make sure the services they plan and deliver meet the needs of disabled children aged between 0-25yrs and families.

BOLTON

Bolton Parent Carer Consortium

Tel: 07715 201798

Email: enquiries@bpcc.org.uk

BURY

Bury Parents Forum

Tel: 0161 641 4585

Email: admin@buryparentsforum.org.uk

www.buryparentsforum.org.uk

MANCHESTER

Manchester Carer Forum

Tel: 0161 819 2226

Email: info@manchestercarersforum.org.uk

<http://www.manchestercarersforum.org.uk/>

Manchester Parent Carer Forum (Previously known as PACT).

Tel: Not yet available

Email:

info@manchesterparentcarerforum.org.uk

<http://manchesterparentcarerforum.org.uk>

OLDHAM

Parents in Oldham In Touch (POINT)

Tel: 0161 667 2054

Email: enquiries@pointoldham.hotmail.co.uk

www.pointoldham.co.uk/

SALFORD

Salford Parent Voice

Tel: 0161 603 6833

Email: info@salfordfamilyforum.org

www.salfordfamilyforum.org

STOCKPORT

Parents In Partnership (PIPS)

07786 101 072

Email: info@pipstockport.org

www.pipstockport.org/index.html

TAMESIDE

Our Kids Eyes (OKE)

Tel: 0161 371 20084

Email: ourkidseyes@ntlworld.com

www.ourkidseyes.org/contact-us/

TRAFFORD

Trafford Parents Forum

Tel: 0161 872 0183

Email: traffordparentsforum@gmail.com

www.traffordparentsforum.org

WIGAN

Wigan Parent Carer Forum

Tel: 01942 233323

Email:

parentparticipation@embracewiganandleigh.org.uk

www.embracewiganandleigh.org.uk