



# Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Network Support: Final Report



A joint venture to  
support the local  
VCSE sector in  
Greater Manchester



**From April 22 to September 23, 10GM worked with NHS GM ICS to maintain and improve spaces for peer support and informal learning related to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. This report outlines the project's activities and highlights key insights.**

The Greater Manchester FASD Network is a collective of parents, carers, and community organisations united by a common interest in FASD. 10GM collaborated with the Greater Manchester FASD Network to:

- Expand their membership and visibility across Greater Manchester
- Offer guidance on GM FASD strategy and implementation
- Create and execute a series of FASD awareness activities led by individuals with lived experience.

## Influencing Activity

Here are some highlights of the Network's recent accomplishments:

- Developed and promoted the GM FASD Awareness Pledge.
- A letter was sent to MPs and system leads to encourage their commitment to the FASD Pledge.
- The Network was represented at an International Conference, with one of our members presenting a session.
- We managed a stall at the national FASD conference, which included a poster advocating for the incorporation of lived experiences in service design.
- Network representatives participated in co-designing the GM strategy and policy, including the implementation of NICE standards.

## Network Development

Some of the key achievements of the FASD Network:

- Six network members regularly engaged in the FASD Network, and fifteen new participants have joined, representing work in their localities and organisations.
- Four localities have been newly engaged or re-engaged in the FASD Network.
- Sixteen network sessions have been facilitated, in addition to approximately twenty Task and Finish sessions to design products and plan events.
- The GM FASD Network webpage and logo have been created and publicised.
- We produced a number of posters publicising the network and encouraging participation.
- National events have been promoted to VCSE organisations across GM.
- Two Future Planning Sessions were held with network members to co-design a sustainability plan.
- A lived experience remuneration process has been established for parents and carers to participate in strategy and co-design.
- Membership of the FASD Alliance (national) has been facilitated.
- The future FASD Network Support Specification has been co-designed.





## Raising Awareness of FASD

- We successfully facilitated seven well-received awareness-raising events throughout Greater Manchester, with over 140 participants, including parents/carers and professionals from the statutory and VCSE sectors.
- In one area, this has resulted in a midwife asking their Trust to offer awareness raising to all midwifery staff.
- Five additional workshops were held by a Network Member, aimed at training up professionals in midwifery, early years, and adoption services.
- Created an awareness-raising presentation resource, available for future use.
- Hosted a lunchtime learning session with the University of Salford to discuss Prevalence Study findings.
- Conducted a lunchtime learning session with the University of Salford to explore the interaction between FASD and the criminal justice system.
- Established a regular online education drop-in support session, organised by a Network member.
- Successfully managed an online FASD awareness-raising campaign during FASD Awareness Month.
- Designed and published an e-book and leaflet called "Things I Wish I'd Known," based on the experiences of parents and carers of FASD.
- Updated and promoted the network's e-book on FASD.
- Me & My FASD subscriptions provided support to 14 families.
- Amplified the Drymester campaign and National FASD's Awareness Month activities.







## Lessons Learnt

### Key Findings from supporting the GM FASD Network:

- The GM FASD Network is an invaluable resource for raising awareness.
- The sharing of lived experiences was unanimously identified as the most valuable aspect of all awareness raising events. Participants expressed appreciation for the informative, personal stories shared by those parenting children and young people with FASD.
- It is essential that individuals with lived experience are compensated for their time when supporting co-design pieces with commissioners and service providers.
- This could be taken further in the future work by employing people with lived experience to deliver overall network support in a paid capacity.
- Demand for FASD awareness sessions among communities and professional networks is high. Partnering with community organisations to reach diverse audiences and ensure access to information and peer networks will be critical in the next stages of the work.
- Network members displayed enthusiasm, passion, and a willingness to collaborate, pool resources, and develop new initiatives.
- A non-judgmental, supportive approach is essential to enable families and parents to access the network and to contribute their own voices and experiences.
- The Network must obtain long-term, external funding to maintain and grow membership, participation, and delivery and become sustainable and self-managing.



**To learn more about our work with the GM FASD Network or to discuss how we can work together, please get in touch - we'd love to hear from you.**



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