

HSPCF Events and Opportunities

1. Parent Carer Coffee Morning – with Short Breaks Guest Attendance

Parent carers are invited to attend our Parent Carer Coffee Morning. A relaxed and supportive space for families to connect with other parent carers and to share experiences in a safe informal space as no parent carer should feel isolated and unsupported.

For this session members of the Short Breaks Commissioning Team from Halton Borough Council will also be in attendance. This gives parent carers the additional opportunity to have views and experiences to be heard directly along with;

- Sharing views on Short Breaks activities and support
- highlight gaps in provision and what families feel is currently missing
- help shape how services could work better for children and young people with SEND

Date: 22 January 2026 **Time:** 9.30-11.30

Venue: Heath Offices café

As part of our wider wellbeing work, **toothbrush packs will be available** at this coffee morning.

Online Follow-Up Session (Zoom)

To ensure parent carers who are unable to attend the coffee morning due to work or other commitments can still be involved, a follow-up online Zoom session will take place with the same guest speakers the following week. This session will reflect the key discussion points from the coffee morning and provide another opportunity for parent carers to share views. Ensuring that feedback is gathered from a wide range of families.

Date: 29th January 2026

Time: 8pm -9pm  **Zoom link:** *To be shared once confirmed*

2. Hummingbird Arts & Craft Pizza Night

Families are invited to attend our Hummingbird Arts & Craft Pizza Night, a relaxed and inclusive event for children and young people with SEND and their families. This event is tailored to provide a fun, creative space for children and young people giving families an opportunity to spend time together in a supportive environment. Alongside letting families connect with others in a relaxed setting.

Arts and crafts activities will be available throughout the session, and pizza will be provided for families to enjoy together. Spaces are limited so if you wish to attend please can you email Clare - clare.collins@haltonsendpcf.org.uk

Date: 23rd January 2026 **Time:** 5pm – 7pm

Venue: Hummingbird Art Studio

Please see the poster below for full details

3. Halton Borough Council Updates - Summary from Recent Zoom Session with Michaela Bridge and Kate Charlton

A recent Zoom session was held with Michaela Bridge and Kate Charlton from Halton Borough Council to share updates and hear feedback from parent carers. Key themes discussed included:

- SEND staffing and EHCP processes -Updates were shared on SEND staffing capacity, with the aim of improving consistency and supporting EHCP assessments and reviews.
- Transport - Proposed changes to SEND transport were discussed. A parent briefing document and FAQs are in development.
- School place planning - Clarification was provided following recent media reports. It was confirmed that no school closures are currently planned. The local authority is exploring how existing buildings may be used more effectively including as potential SEND provision.

Short Breaks – Key Discussion Points from the Zoom Session

- Updates were shared on the refreshed Short Breaks panel process which Kate described as more tailored to individual children rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.
- Parent carers raised concerns about communication and clarity. Including how decisions are made, how outcomes are shared, and how families can understand or challenge decisions. Some parent carers shared experiences of inconsistent information, including limited follow-up or unclear messaging. Concerns were also raised about knowing who to contact, particularly where allocated workers had changed or were no longer in post.
- It was acknowledged that clearer communication and consistency are important, and these concerns were discussed during the session.

Short Breaks Consultation – Small Grants (Have Your Say)

Short Breaks consultation and questionnaire as an opportunity to share views and help shape future support. This will take place in the form of Short Breaks visiting a the coffee morning on the 22nd of January, a zoom on the 29th of January and their own event on the 3rd of March.

Parents are invited to fill in the questionnaire to express their views and help shape the provision offered from short breaks from April 2026 this can be found via their flyer or by following the link below;

[Parents and Carers, we want your thoughts about Halton's short breaks activities](#)



4. Mental Health Matters - Warrington & Halton Support Hub

The Warrington & Halton Support Hub offers free, non-clinical mental health support for adults aged 18+ who are feeling distressed, anxious, or struggling to cope.

Support is available without referral or appointment, with face-to-face or virtual sessions offered every evening. Please check the flyer below for full details, including locations, opening times, and contact information.

5. Oral Health – Smile and Shine Campaign

We are also sharing information from the Smile and Shine campaign, led by Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, which promotes good oral health and toothbrushing for children and young people.

As part of this: information and resources are included on the poster below and we will have Toothbrush packs will be available at upcoming coffee mornings



Halton Send Carers Forum



haltonsendcarersforum

Haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk

To keep up to date with events, consultations, and support for parent carers, you can stay connected with us in the following ways:

Website:

www.haltonparentcarersforum.org

Email:

info@haltonparentcarersforum.org

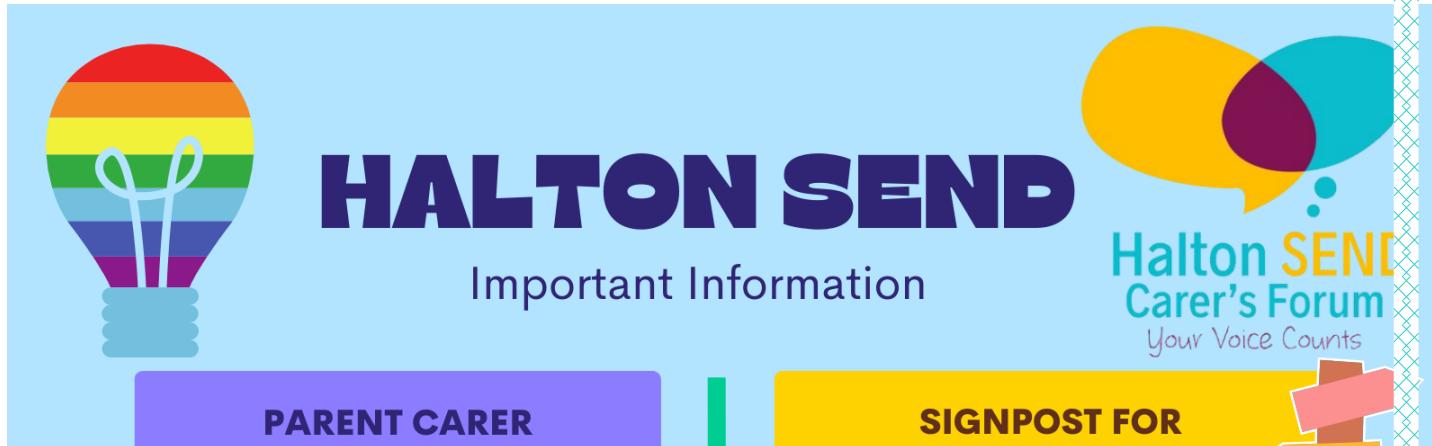
Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/HaltonSENDParentCarersForum>

Closed Facebook group (for parent carers):

Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum – Closed Group

We regularly share updates, opportunities, and reminders across our channels, so please connect in the way that works best for you.



PARENT CARER ADVICE / SUPPORT

1 Halton Send Parent Carer's Forum



A voice to inform families with children with additional needs of the services in our local area which may be beneficial to your child.

www.haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk

2 ADDvanced Solutions



An open access offer that supports the emotional health and wellbeing of neurodivergent children and young people, their families and the professionals that work with them.

www.addvancesolutions.co.uk

3 Halton Carer's Centre



Halton Carers' Centre is a network partner of the Carers Trust. We work to reach unpaid young & adult carers and develop services for them across the borough.

www.haltoncarers.co.uk

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH



- 1 MHST www.merseycare.nhs.uk

Our Mental Health Support Team provides direct mental health support to 45 schools in Halton. We promote the early detection and prevention of mental health problems, strengthen links with mental health services, providing direct, ongoing support around mental health and wellbeing across the whole school.



- 2 Kooth www.kooth.com

Kooth is a free digital safe and anonymous platform for support for young people. They have wellbeing activities, journals, discussion boards, tips and a free Chat and messenger option for young people to talk to someone.



- 3 CAMHS www.merseycare.nhs.uk

Headz Up Halton drop-in hub
An informal drop-in café where young people up to 18 years, parents and carers can drop in to speak with a mental health professional for assessment, advice and signposting to local services.
Tues- Brookvale / Thursday Warrington Rd

WHAT'S ON JAN 2025



Peer to peer support
and advice

Halton SEND PARENT
Carer's Forum
Your voice counts

[Halton Send Parent](#)
[Carers Forum](#)

Informing Empowering Engaging



PARENT CHECK-IN

- Halton Stadium 8th- 9.30-11.30 am with Ben Holmes
- Heath Café 15th Jan- 9.30-11.30 am
- Heath Café 22nd Jan- 9.30-11.30 am
- Heath Café 29th Jan- 9.30-11.30 am



ZOOM

- Zoom with Michaela Bridge 15th January 8-9pm
After consulting with parents and carers we have changed the time to 8-9pm to accommodate

EVENTS

- Sync Club 17th January
- Hummingbird Date TBC

E-MAIL FOR INFO
Info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk

contact
For families
with disabled children



Informing Empowering Engaging

PARENT ADVICE, SUPPORT & **CHECK-IN**



Come and meet other parents on a similar journey to yourself. Get peer to peer advice and support along with a Coffee.

- Meet other parent carers
- Help shape local services
- Share important information
- Get support & Advice
- Discuss important topics



"Never underestimate the power of a chat. Its a simple act that can bring light into the darkest corners of loneliness"



CONTACT US

- Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum
- info@haltonsendpcf.org
- haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk





HUMMINGBIRD ARTS, CRAFTS & PIZZA

join us for our monthly family friendly session at Hummingbird Art studio.

- Meet other parent carers
- Life Skills
- Independence
- Friendship

5-7pm
23 JANUARY 2026

Contact us
CLARE.COLLISS@HALTONSENDPCF.ORG.UK

Visit our website
HALTONSENDCARERSFORUM.ORG.UK

REGISTER VIA EMAIL



**HaltonSEND PARENT
Carer's Forum
Your voice counts**

