

HSPCF Events and Opportunities

1. PCF Insight – Early Years SEND

Across parent carer forums families are consistently raising similar experiences around Early Years SEND. Common themes include difficulty finding clear information and knowing who to contact, long waits to access early support, services not feeling joined up across health, education and local services, challenges securing Early Years placements for children with SEND, and transitions into primary school being particularly difficult without an EHCP.

What we're doing: These shared insights are being used to inform ongoing discussions, highlight recurring patterns affecting families, and support conversations about improving early support.

2. Parent Carer Coffee Morning

Our next Parent Carer Coffee Morning will take place on 29 January. This will be a relaxed, informal session with no guest speakers, giving parent carers the opportunity to connect, unwind, and support one another through peer conversation. Thank you to everyone who attended the previous coffee morning with Claire Gurney and Sharon Hawkins and shared feedback so openly.

Date: 29 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 again.

3. Online Follow-Up Session (Zoom)

To ensure parent carers who were unable to attend the coffee morning with Claire Gurney and Sharon Hawkins are able to have their voices heard a follow-up online session will take place on the 29th at 8pm via Zoom. 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:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86920311920?pwd=zla8IKZ1bdlidTghP5zEv0HRPbGgjlcl.1>



Halton Borough Council Updates

4. Summary from Recent Zoom

Some of the following information was shared in last week's newsletter following the parent/carer Zoom with Michaela Bridge and Kate Charlton. The update below reiterates key points and includes any additional detail or next steps that were not available at the time.

- SEND staffing and EHCP processes -A new Head of Service for SEND & Inclusion Kelly Carey will be starting on 2 March 2026. This role is expected to support greater consistency and oversight across SEND services and EHCP processes.
- Transport - The Home to School Transport consultation has closed. Concerns were raised about a lack of clarity around what happens next. This feedback has been shared, and work is underway to develop a clear timeline for future updates and communications. Consultation information remains available to view via this link <https://www.halton.gov.uk/Pages/newsroom/News/2024/Home-to-School-Transport-Policy-consultation.aspx>
- 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.
- A Sensory Toolkit is planned to launch in February. There may still be opportunities for parents to trial the toolkit, with families contacted directly if this applies.
- A SEND monitoring inspection - is currently taking place as a follow-up to the previous inspection. This focuses on progress against agreed improvement actions rather than being a full re-inspection. Parents' views may be gathered through surveys or meetings, and a written outcome letter will be published once the process is complete.

Short Breaks - Feedback from Kate Charlton

- Further updates were shared on Short Breaks including current consultation events. Feedback from the parent carers has been shared with senior leaders with individual cases raised during the Zoom being followed up. Concerns around communication and clarity have been acknowledged.

Short Breaks Consultation - Small Grants (Have Your Say)

Short Breaks consultation and questionnaire is an opportunity to share views and help shape future support a zoom consultation will take place on the 29th of January (see link above) 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](#)

Cheshire and Merseyside ICB

The following updates relate to health services and support across Halton and may be relevant for families and carers.

5. School Immunisations – SEND Support

From January 2026, secondary school immunisations will be taking place in Halton, starting with catch-up sessions for Year 10 and 11. Additional SEND support is available to help children and young people access immunisations in a way that works for them. This includes easy-read information, social stories and tailored approaches.

Parents will receive a consent form via school (even if choosing to decline). If your child may need reasonable adjustments, it's encouraged to speak with the school in advance.

6. Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) Update

Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) will continue to roll out across Halton in 2026/27. With funding having been agreed which will bring MHST coverage in Halton up to 100%. This means more schools will be able to access early mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children and young people.

7. Neurodevelopmental Pathway (NDP) Meet & Greet Sessions

The Neurodevelopmental Pathway (NDP) team is offering 30-minute Meet & Greet appointments for families navigating the Autism and/or ADHD assessment pathways. These sessions give parents and carers the chance to: Talk through the Autism and ADHD pathways, Understand what to expect from assessments, Ask questions or raise concerns about their child's journey, Get signposting to local support, including ADDvanced Solutions and Family Hub services.

Where: Warrington Road Family Hub & Brookvale Family Hub **Time:** 9:30am – 1pm

Upcoming dates (up to April):

Thursday 12 February 2026 – Warrington Road

Thursday 26 February 2026 – Brookvale

Thursday 12 March 2026 – Warrington Road

Thursday 26 March 2026 – Brookvale

Thursday 9 April 2026 – Warrington Road

Thursday 23 April 2026 – Brookvale

How to book:

To request an appointment, email the NDP team at:
bchft.haltonndpmeetandgreet@nhs.net

Other Information & Support

The following information highlights additional support and resources that families may find helpful. These sit alongside, but are separate from, the council and health updates shared above.

8. SENDIASS Drop-in Sessions

SENDIASS are running free drop-in advice sessions for families who are not currently open to the service. Open to families who have concerns about SEND (no diagnosis needed) being informal, with no appointment needed (20–30 minute conversations)

Drop-ins run during term time at:

- **Warrington Road Family Hub** – 3rd Friday of the month
- **Brookvale Family Hub** – last Friday of the month

9. Sensory Play Toolkit (External Resource)

This is a separate resource to the Sensory Toolkit referenced in the Halton Borough Council updates above. A free Sensory Play Toolkit is available online and may be helpful for families supporting children with SEND. Particularly those who benefit from sensory activities to support regulation, communication and play.

The toolkit includes simple practical ideas that can be used at home with everyday items, allowing families to choose what works best for their child.

<https://sensoryplaytoolkit.weebly.com/>

10. Carers Centre in Halton

For a wide range of support for carers including; advice, wellbeing support, activities and events, families are encouraged to visit Halton Carers' Centre.

They regularly share information, groups and opportunities for carers across Halton through their website and newsletter via www.haltoncarers.co.uk

11. Dad Matters

Dad Matters offers free support for fathers and anyone in a dad role, particularly during pregnancy and the early years (babies aged 0–2).

Support can include emotional wellbeing support, someone to talk to, and help connecting with local services and groups. Support is delivered locally and works closely with Family Hubs or via this link [Support for Dads](#)

12. Family Support – Halton Family Hubs

Halton Family Hubs provide a range of local support for families including; early years support, parenting advice, SEND information and signposting to other services.

Family Hubs can be a helpful first stop if you're looking for practical support, guidance or local groups, especially for families with younger children.



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.



HALTON SEND

Important Information



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.addvancedsolutions.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

SIGNPOST FOR HALTON



1 Bridgewater



Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. Here you will find information about all of Halton's Health services

www.bridgewater.nhs.uk/halton/

2 Sendiass



If you need some advice, guidance or support on any issues that are affecting you or your child then we're here to help. We provide impartial and confidential information and support.

www.sendiasshalton.co.uk/

3 Family Hubs



A one stop digital platform for Halton residents to use to find services, events, support groups and advice

www.haltonfamilyhubs.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 KOOOTH

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

WHATS ON

JAN 2025



Click & Like



Peer to peer support
and advice

HaltonSEND 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 with Claire Gurney
- Heath Café 29th Jan- 9.30-11.30 am



ZOOM

- Zoom with Michaela Bridge 15th January 8-9pm
 - Zoom with Claire Gurney 29th 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 23rd January

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.



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



Meet other parent carers



Help shape local services



Share important information



Get support & Advice



Discuss important topics

CONTACT US



Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum



info@haltonsendpcf.org



haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk



9:30-11.30am
29 JANUARY 2026



Venue
HEATH CAFE



Guest
N/A

contact
For families
with disabled children





Click & Like

Halton **SEND PARENT**
Carer's Forum
Your voice counts

Halton Send Parent
Carers Forum



ZOOM

SHORT BREAKS GRANTS

With Claire Gurney

Informing  *Empowering*  *Engaging*

THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY- 20.00-21.00 PM

Join us on zoom for a discussion with
Claire Gurney to discuss the Short
Break small grants activities

E-MAIL- FOR INFO

Info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



zoom link

Meeting ID: 869 2031 1920
Passcode: 847311

ZOOM



contact

For families
with disabled children