



## **Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum**

### **Weekly Update – Friday 9 January 2026**

#### **Welcome back, and Happy New Year!**

Welcome to our first weekly Parent Carers Forum update of 2026. We hope you had as restful a break as possible over the Christmas period and are settling into the new year.

This weekly newsletter brings together key updates, events, surveys, and resources relevant to parent carers across Halton, with a focus on SEND, education, health, and family support.

Our aim is to make information easy to access, easy to understand, and genuinely useful, while ensuring parent carers' voices continue to shape local services and support.

#### **Events & Opportunities**

##### **Parent Carer Coffee Morning**

You are invited to join us for a coffee morning to connect with others, share experiences, and talk about current SEND-related issues affecting families in Halton.

This informal session offers a supportive space to meet other parent carers, raise questions or concerns, and share views on what is working well and what could be improved with guest speakers joining us on occasion.

This week's Coffee morning takes place in the Heath Offices Café on Thursday 15th at 9.30am.

##### **Zoom Update with Michaela Bridge**

To make sure parent carers who are unable to attend the coffee morning can still take part, we are also hosting an online Zoom session with Michaela Bridge from Halton Borough Council.

This session will focus on the same key issues and themes discussed at the coffee morning. Provide updates and an opportunity to ask questions and offer a more accessible option for working parent carers.

Thursday 15th January at 8pm for Zoom access details: See poster below.



## **Health, NHS & Bridgewater Updates**

### **Neurodevelopmental Pathway – New FAQs**

Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum has been working alongside Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to co-produce a new set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the Neurodevelopmental Pathway (NDP).

These FAQs aim to make information clearer and more consistent for families. Covering what the pathway is, what to expect at different stages, timescales, and who to contact.

Access the FAQs here:

<https://bridgewater.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Neurodevelopmental-Pathway-NDP-Halton-Warrington-and-Cheshire-West-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>

### **Update from Bridgewater about Reporting Changes**

Bridgewater has asked that parent carers contact the original referrer in the first instance if there are any significant changes in circumstances.

Bridgewater also holds regular SENCO meetings, where changes and concerns can be raised and discussed to support information sharing and continuity.

### **NHS / ICB Update**

The NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board is currently appointing an Interim Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) to cover a period of absence.

Further updates will be shared when available.



## **Education & SEND Support**

### **Ordinarily Available Inclusion Toolkit (OAIT)**

The Ordinarily Available Inclusion Toolkit explains what support should be available for children and young people with SEND in mainstream education settings. The toolkit supports Quality First Teaching, the Graduated Approach, and consistent inclusive practice across schools.

This resource can be helpful for parent carers when understanding what support schools should already be providing and when having conversations with education settings.

Toolkit link:

<https://www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk/send-graduated-approach>



## **Have Your Say – Parent Carer Survey**

Parent carers are invited to complete a short survey as part of the Regional Parent Carer Needs Assessment project.

The survey explores experiences of parent carer support, what works well, and what could be improved to make processes more family friendly.

Parent carers who complete the survey can choose to be entered into a draw to win a £20 Amazon voucher. The Deadline is the 16th of January.

Survey link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/qCJyi8YbAR>



### **Contact Us**

Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum

Email: [info@haltonparentcarersforum.org](mailto:info@haltonparentcarersforum.org)

Website: [www.haltonparentcarersforum.org](http://www.haltonparentcarersforum.org)

Facebook page: Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum

Closed Facebook group: Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum – Closed Group

**Thank you for being part of the Halton SEND parent carer community.**

**Whether you're able to attend events, complete surveys, or simply stay informed, your involvement makes a difference.**

**Kind regards,**

**Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum Team**





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  
15 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

## HBC UPDATE

With Michaela Bridge

*Informing*  *Empowering*  *Engaging*



zoom link

**THURSDAY 15TH JANUARY- 20.00-21.00 PM**

Join us on zoom for a discussion with  
Michaela Bridge for a Monthly update  
on

**E-MAIL- FOR INFO**

[Info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk](mailto:Info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk)

Meeting ID: 842 9882 5415  
Passcode: 965307

**ZOOM**



**contact**  
For families  
with disabled children



# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk/)



## SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH



### 1 MHST

[www.mersecare.nhs.uk](http://www.mersecare.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](http://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.mersecare.nhs.uk](http://www.mersecare.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 by to speak with a mental health professional for assessment, advice and signposting to local services.  
Tues- Brookvale / Thursday Warrington Rd