

## HSPCF Events and Opportunities

### **1. What's on this Month – February 2026**

February has been a busy month for the forum, with lots of opportunities for parent carers to connect, share experiences and stay informed. Thank you to everyone who has joined us at our coffee mornings and Zoom sessions so far this month, it's been great to see so many families getting involved.

As we head into the February half term, please note that the forum will close during the afternoon of Friday 13 February and reopen on Monday 23 February. During this time, we won't be responding to emails or messages, and we'll get back to everyone as soon as we can once we return.

So there's no events running next week and we look forward to seeing everyone back from the 23 February.

### **2. Parent Carer Coffee Morning – 26<sup>th</sup> February**

We're looking forward to welcoming everyone back after half term at our next Parent Carer Coffee Morning on Thursday 26 February.

This will be a relaxed session with no guest speaker - just a chance to catch up, share experiences and reconnect with other parent carers. Whether you're a regular or thinking about coming along for the first time, you'll be very welcome.

There's no formal agenda and no pressure — just space to talk, listen and connect with others who understand. No booking is needed. Drop in for all or part of the morning.

**Time:** 9.30am – 11.30am

**Venue:** The Heath Offices Café – Runcorn

### **3. Hummingbird Crafts and Pizza Night - 27th February**

We're really pleased to share that this session is now fully booked.

If you have booked a place and find that you're unable to attend, we completely understand that plans can change, especially after a half term. If you're able to let us know, it helps us offer the space to another family.

If you would like to express interest in future sessions please email [info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk](mailto:info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk) and we will be in touch.

**Time:** 5pm- 7pm

**Venue:** Hummingbird Studio



## Halton Borough Council Updates

### **3. EHCP Online Follow-Up Session (Zoom) Update**

A huge thank you to Michaela Bridge and Shelly Nicolson who joined us on last night's Zoom to discuss the EHCP process and respond to questions submitted by forum members and parents.

Michaela and Shelly have also produced a written guide for parents, bringing together the key questions discussed along with helpful resources and signposting information. We will distribute this guide as soon as it's made available so that parents can save it and refer back to it whenever needed.

### **4. Short Breaks Consultation - Small Grants Evaluation Event – 3<sup>rd</sup> March.**

The Short Breaks process is now moving into the next stage of evaluating Bids. Following the recent consultation and suggestion phase, parents and carers are now being invited to help review the activity bids that have been submitted for future Short Breaks provision.

Evaluation sessions will take place on Tuesday 3 March in a range of locations at different times to increase accessibility for all parent carers. These times and locations are:

- Brookfields School, Widnes – 9.30am – 11.15am
- Halton Lodge Family Hub, Runcorn – 12.30pm – 2.15pm
- Kingsway Learning Centre, Widnes – 5.30pm – 7.15pm

Places are limited so if you would like you attend and help with evaluating the bids please email; [Aiminghigh.fordisabledchildren@halton.gov.uk](mailto:Aiminghigh.fordisabledchildren@halton.gov.uk)

Further information about Short Breaks can be found via the Local Offer:

<https://www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk/send-short-breaks>



## Halton Borough Council Updates

### **5. 'You said, we did' Event – Save the Date – 26<sup>th</sup> March**

Halton Borough Council has confirmed details for the next **Parent Carer "You Said, We Did"** event. This event gives parent carers the opportunity to hear how feedback has been used and to continue open conversations with the local area SEND partnership.

Further information to follow closer to the date.

**Date:** 26.03.2026  
**Stadium**

**Time:** 10am - 12.00pm

**Venue:** Bridge Suite DCBL



### **6. Talk Halton - Have Your Say**

We have been asked by Halton Borough Council to share the following survey regarding Talk Halton.

"We want every child in Halton to be given the best start in life and one of the important building blocks for children is learning to communicate through speech and language development. Talk Halton offers a service to all families in the borough, giving lots of information, advice and support to give every child the opportunity to develop their skills and extra help if it's needed.

We are currently reviewing this service to improve this offer further and would like your thoughts. We would really appreciate it if you could spare two minutes to fill in this short survey which will help inform our review of the service by 8 March 2026."

If you would like to take part, please complete the survey using the link below or by scanning the QR code.

[Talk Halton Survey](#)





### **Cheshire and Merseyside ICB**

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) is the NHS organisation responsible for planning and improving health services across Cheshire and Merseyside, including support for children and young people with additional needs. We are sharing the latest Power of 9 update below along with some previously shared resource that may still be helpful to families.

#### **7. The Power of 9 – January Update**

The power of 9 is a regional programme focused on improving health and wellbeing support for babies, children and young people across Cheshire and Merseyside. The latest January update highlights progress in several areas that may be relevant to families in Halton, including:

Development of a new Parent Carer Needs Assessment, including co-production workshops and work on a clearer pathway for families, Continued rollout of the “Knowing Me” neurodevelopmental profiling tool, Expansion plans for Mental Health Support Teams in schools and colleges and Ongoing work to strengthen early support and improve joined-up services

You can read the full January via the PDF attached with the newsletter.

#### **8. 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.

#### **9. Neurodevelopmental Pathway (NDP) Meet & Greet Sessions**

The NDP team continues to offer 30-minute Meet & Greet appointments for families navigating the Autism and/or ADHD assessment pathways. These sessions provide an opportunity to ask questions about the pathway, understand what to expect and receive signposting to local support.

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

**Thursday 26 February 2026** – Brookvale      **Thursday 12 March 2026** – Warrington road

**Thursday 26 March 2026** – Brookvale      **Thursday 9 April 2026** – Warrington road

**How to book:** To request an appointment, email the NDP team at:  
[bchft.haltonndpmeetandgreet@nhs.net](mailto:bchft.haltonndpmeetandgreet@nhs.net)

### Other Information & Support

The following information highlights additional support and resources that families may find helpful. Some of this information is being reshared, as these services and opportunities remain available and may be useful for families who missed previous updates.

#### **9. SWRAC Widnes – Open Day Event – During half term**

SWRAC Specialist College is holding an Open Day for parents, carers, young people and professionals to find out more about their specialist post-16 provision for individuals with EHCPs. The Open Day is open to parents, carers, young people and professionals who would like to: Learn more about post-16 specialist options, Explore the college environment, Meet staff and Learn more about the support and opportunities available.

**Date: Friday 20 February 2026 Time: 1.00pm – 4.00pm**

**Venue:** Victoria House, Lugsdale Road, Widnes, WA8 6DJ

Further details and contact information are included on the poster below.

#### **10. Adult Learning team – Level 1 Awareness of Mental Health and Wellbeing**

We thought some parent carers may find this upcoming course of interest. A new Level 1 Awareness of Mental Health and Wellbeing course begins on Wednesday 4 March and runs weekly for four weeks. This supportive course will help participants to:

- Identify a range of mental health issues
- Understand factors that affect mental health and wellbeing
- Recognise barriers to accessing support
- Explore sources of help
- Learn practical ways to promote positive mental health and wellbeing

This may be helpful for parent carers who would like to build confidence, support others, or deepen their understanding of mental health.

To enrol, please contact the Adult Learning Team on:  
0151 511 7788

#### **11. 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](http://www.haltoncarers.co.uk)



**Halton SEND**  
Carer's Forum  
*Your Voice Counts*



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Halton Send Carers Forum



haltonsendcarersforum

[Haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk](http://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](http://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



Halton SEND  
Carer's Forum  
Your Voice Counts

### 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.addvancesolutions.co.uk](http://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](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.merseycare.nhs.uk](http://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](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.merseycare.nhs.uk](http://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 by to speak with a mental health professional for assessment, advice and signposting to local services.

Tues- Brookvale / Thursday Warrington Rd

# WHAT'S ON FEB 2026



Click & Like



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 5th Feb- 9.30-11.30 am with Ben Holmes
- Heath Café 12th Feb- 9.30-11.30 am
- Heath Café 26th Feb- 9.30-11.30



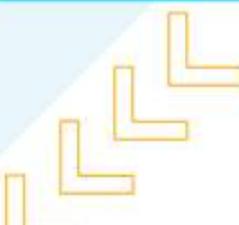
## ZOOM

- Zoom with Michaela Bridge 12<sup>th</sup> February 8-9pm



## EVENTS

- Sync Club 21<sup>st</sup> February
- Hummingbird Date 27th February



**E-MAIL FOR INFO**  
[Info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk](mailto: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

9:30-11.30am  
26 FEBRUARY 2026

Venue  
HEATH CAFE

Guest  
N/A



## 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  
27 FEBRUARY 2026

Contact us  
INFO@HALTONSENDPCF.ORG.UK

Visit our website  
HALTONSENDCARERSFORUM.ORG.UK

REGISTER VIA EMAIL





## **Parents & Carers – can you spare some time to help evaluate the new Short Breaks Activity applications?**

**Halton's Small Grant funded Short Breaks activity contracts end on 31st March 2026.**

**In order that we commission the right services; we would like parents and carers to help evaluate the bids from providers on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026. Sessions will run from: -**

**Brookfields School, Widnes – 9.30am – 11.15am**

**Halton Lodge Family Hub, Runcorn – 12.30pm – 2.15pm**

**Kingsway Learning Centre, Widnes – 5.30pm – 7.15pm**

**Numbers are limited, and to enquire about booking a place – please email: -**

**Aiminghigh.fordisabledchildren@halton.gov.uk**

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

**AimingHigh.fordisabledchildren@halton.gov.uk**

For more information about the local offer and the short break services on offer in Halton please visit <https://www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk/send-short-breaks>



# Family Learning



## Awareness of Mental Health and Wellbeing

### OCN Level 1 Qualification

Are you curious how to recognise mental health issues, understand wellbeing, access support, and promote positive mental health?

Join our four-week short course on

Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March, 1:00pm-3:00pm, at Kingsway Learning Centre

#### During the course, you will learn to:

- Identify a range of mental health issues.
- Outline factors that can affect mental health and wellbeing.
- Identify sources of support for those with mental health issues.
- Recognise barriers to accessing mental health support.
- Identify ways in which to foster positive mental health and wellbeing.