



Halton SEND Carer's Forum

Weekly update – 27th February 2026



Welcome back after the half term.

This week's newsletter begins with information and resources relating to the SEND White Paper and current consultation, followed by updates on our upcoming Parent Carer Forum events, information shared by Halton Borough Council, updates from the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board, and other information we've come across that may be helpful for our parent carer community.

Every child achieving and thriving – White Paper.

The long awaited Send White Paper has been released this week and has been widely featured across the media and a range of platforms. We know this can feel like a lot to take in, but it's important to remember that these proposals are still in the early consultation stages and any implementation will take time.

The Department for Education has also released a range of easy-to-read guides explaining the proposed changes and how they may affect a range of different children and young people, families, schools and early years settings. These aim to break down what is being suggested and what it could mean in practice.

We will be hosting a Zoom session with Michaela Bridge on **19 March** where parent carers can submit questions in advance by the 12th of march and the team will do their best to provide answers. Please send any questions to: info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk

You can access the Department for Education guides here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-send-reforms-sheets>

The PDFs will also be attached to the newsletter email.

Parental engagement now and throughout the process is really important in helping shape how these proposals develop so thank you to everyone who continues to attend sessions, share feedback and speak up about experiences.

HSPCF Events and Opportunities

1. What's on this Month – March 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.

March is shaping up to be another busy month for the forum, with a mix of in-person and online opportunities for parent carers to connect, share experiences and stay informed. This month we'll be running; Regular Parent Carer coffee mornings, Evening Zoom session, with a focused on SEND white paper. Our family Arts, Crafts & Pizza session at Hummingbird

2. Parent Carer Coffee Mornings – 5th, 12th, 19th March

We're looking forward to seeing our regulars and hopefully some newcomers to our upcoming coffee mornings this month

The first coffee morning on the 5th will be a relaxed session with no guest speaker - just a chance to catch up, share experiences and reconnect.

There's no formal agenda and no pressure - 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 – 13th of March

Our next date for our Hummingbird studio craft night is on the 13th of March, so if you like to come along please email info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk and we will be in touch to allocate places.

Its always such a wonderfully evening for everyone in a relaxed, welcoming space where children and young people can enjoy being creative while parents and carers have the chance to chat, connect and share experiences.

Time: 5pm- 7pm

Venue: Hummingbird Studio

4. Parent Carer Zoom Session 19th of March

This session will include a short overview of key information shared at the recent coffee morning with Ben Holmes (12th March), followed by a focus on the SEND White Paper. Parent carers are welcome to submit any questions about the White Paper in advance by 12 March, and Michaela and the team will do their best to respond to as many as possible during the session.

Time: 8pm-9pm

Meeting Id: 87165325061

Passcode: 927273

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87165325061?pwd=bABfpaRknSPIO8bHt1Z73Ep05mpQb.1>



Halton Borough Council Updates

4. EHCP Online Follow-Up Session (Zoom) Update

Michaela and Shelly have produced a written guide for parents which brings together the key questions submitted for the EHCP Zoom session.

The guide is now available and has been included with this newsletter so parents can save it and refer to it whenever needed.

5. Short Breaks Consultation - Small Grants Evaluation Event – 3rd 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

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

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

6. New Shortbreaks Dads Lego Club

Short Breaks are running a relaxed monthly SEND Dad & Kids Club, created especially for SEND dads and their children. These sessions offer a supportive space for male carers to spend dedicated time with their child.

Enjoy creative Lego-based activities and connect with other SEND dads in a friendly, informal environment. For more information or to book a place, please contact the Short Breaks team directly at:

aiminghigh.fordisabledchildren@halton.gov.uk



Halton Borough Council Updates

7. 'You said, we did' Event – Save the Date – 26th 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



8. 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.

9. Beyond Newsletter

The latest Beyond newsletter shares how services across Cheshire and Merseyside are working more closely together to better support children and young people with complex needs.

The focus is on creating local “neighbourhood teams” where professionals from health, education and local authorities work together, rather than families being passed between services. The overall aim is to: Offer support earlier, reduce families having to repeat their story, improve communication between services and Make support feel more joined-up and easier to navigate.

In Halton specifically, work is underway to develop a model that aims to: Provide more coordinated advice and support for children with complex needs, Support children whose needs don't always meet strict service thresholds, Reduce the “bounce” between different services and Improve support for neurodiversity and mental health concerns.

This work is still developing across the region, and we will continue to share updates as things progress. The full Beyond newsletter is attached for anyone who would like more detail.

10. 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 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

Other Information & Support

If you're not already part of our community online, we'd love you to join our closed Facebook group where we regularly share local updates, events, support opportunities and information that may be helpful to parent carers.

11. The Neurodivergence Task and Finish Group report.

This report was released on the same day as the Send White paper. This report looks specifically at how mainstream education can better support neurodivergent children and young people. The report highlights the barriers many neurodivergent learners face and sets out four key priority areas for improvement:

- **Earlier identification of strengths and needs** focusing on understanding needs rather than waiting for a diagnosis
- **Workforce development** - improving training so staff better understand neurodiversity and how to respond
- **More inclusive learning environments** - adapting curriculum, learning spaces and policies so children can fully participate
- **Funding and accountability** - ensuring funding reflects need and that families have clearer routes to resolution when challenges arise

Importantly, the report reinforces the need to listen to neurodivergent children, young people and their families in decision-making and school practice.

The full report is attached for anyone who would like to read it in more detail.



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



HALTON SEND

Important Information



PARENT CARER ADVICE / SUPPORT

SIGNPOST FOR HALTON



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

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 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

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 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

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.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 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.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

WHATS ON

MARCH 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

- Heath Cafe 5th March- 9.30-11.30 am
- Halton Stadium 12th March- 9.30-11.30 am- with Ben Holmes
- Heath Café 19th March- 9.30-11.30

ZOOM

- Zoom with Michaela Bridge 19th March 8-9pm



YOU SAID, WE DID, WE'RE DOING...

26th March 10am-12- Halton Stadium
Opportunity for parents and carers to hear about the progress being made in improving services and provisions to support SEND in Halton



EVENTS

- Sync Club 21st March
- Hummingbird Date 13th March

FORUM CLOSING FOR EASTER 27TH MARCH

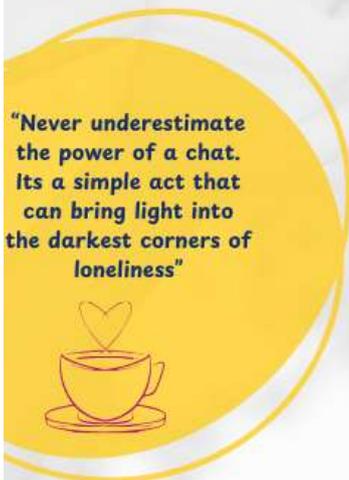
E-MAIL FOR INFO
Info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk

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
05 MARCH 2026

 Venue
HEATH CAFE

 Guest
N/A

contact
For families
with disabled children





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
13 MARCH 2026

Contact us
INFO@HALTONSENDPCF.ORG.UK

Visit our website
HALTONSENDCARERSFORUM.ORG.UK

REGISTER VIA EMAIL



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



ZOOM FOCUS

HBC- SCHOOL'S WHITE PAPER

A Q & A with questions being provided in advance so we can ensure that everyone gets the answers they need.



HaltonSEND PARENT
Carer's Forum
Your voice counts



Click & Like



HAVE YOUR SAY

Thursday 19th March

Informing  Empowering  Engaging

If you have any questions regarding the new SEND School's White Paper please make sure you submit your questions to us via email by:

THURS 12TH MARCH



E-MAIL FORUM:

Info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



contact

For families
with disabled children



Halton Short Breaks Service FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



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 **3rd 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>



— SHORT BREAKS —

SEND Dad & Kids Club

Looking for a relaxed, friendly space to spend quality time with your child?

Come along to our Monthly Club, created especially for SEND dads and their children.

What to Expect:

-  Lego building and creative activities
-  Meet and connect with other SEND dads
-  Enjoy dedicated time together in a supportive environment

 **Time: 6:00pm – 7:30pm**

 **Location: Warrington Road Family Hub and Brookvale Family Hub (sessions alternate monthly)**

 Refreshments provided

**ALL SEND male carers
WELCOME**



To book a place

aiminghigh.fordisabledchildren@halton.gov.uk

