



# Halton SEND Carer's Forum



Weekly update – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Welcome to this week's update from the Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum newsletter - Our aim is to keep parent carers informed, connected and able to share their experiences so local services can continue to improve.

## HSPCF Events and Opportunities

### 1. Parent Carer Coffee Mornings – 19<sup>th</sup> March

We're looking forward to seeing our regulars and hopefully welcoming some new faces to our next Parent Carer Coffee Morning.

Our coffee mornings are informal, relaxed sessions where parent carers can come together for a chat, share experiences and speak with the Forum team. There is no formal agenda, no need to book, and no pressure to stay for the whole session — just drop in if you can.

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> March      **Time:** 9.30am – 11.30am      **Venue:** The Heath offices Café

### 2. Parent Carer Zoom Session 19<sup>th</sup> of March

Our next Zoom session will include a recap of the main points shared at the coffee morning with Ben Holmes on 12 March, followed by a focus on the **SEND White Paper**. Thank you to everyone who sent questions in ahead of the session. Your questions help make sure the discussion reflects the issues parent carers want to hear more about.

**Time:** 8pm-9pm      **Meeting Id:** 87165325061      **Passcode:** 927273

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87165325061?pwd=bABfpfaRknSPIO8bHt1Z73Ep05mpQb.1>

### 3. Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) Training.

Last week, Rachel and Nikki from HSPCF attended training on Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA).

CAPVA is when a child or young person shows repeated abusive behaviour towards a parent or carer. This can include physical violence, emotional abuse, coercive or controlling behaviour, damage to property, or abuse towards other family members.

Some of the key messages from the training were that CAPVA is a growing issue, often involving more than one type of abuse, and that many families are not currently able to access enough support.

While we at the Forum are cannot offer training or direct intervention, we will always try to support parent carers as much as we can through listening, peer support and signposting where possible. If this is something affecting your family, you are welcome to speak to a member of the Forum team at one of our coffee mornings or support sessions.



#### **4. Ofsted/ CQC – Send monitoring inspection report.**

The Ofsted / CQC Area SEND monitoring visit report for Halton has now been published.

The report found that Halton has taken effective action in four of the five priority areas identified at the previous inspection. It highlights progress in areas including parent carer voice, support for schools, and improvements to EHCP timeliness and quality.

The report also makes clear that waiting times remain too long across autism, community paediatrics and speech and language therapy, and that further work is still needed in these areas.

**You can read the full report here:** [ofsted report](#)

With the communication update released by Ben Holmes here [Ofsted SEND Monitoring Visit to Halton Local Area Partnership](#)

#### **5. 'You said, we did' Event - 26<sup>th</sup> March – Registration now open**

Registration is now open for Halton Borough Council's next Parent Carer "You Said, We Did" event.

This event gives parent carers the chance to hear more about how family feedback is helping to shape services in Halton, as well as what work is currently taking place and what is planned next. The session will include a short update along with interactive opportunities for parents and carers to share their views and ideas.

<https://forms.office.com/e/1Tz2aPGPD4?origin=lprLink>

**Date:** 26.03.2026  
Stadium

**Time:** 10am - 12.00pm

**Venue:** Bridge Suite DCBL

#### **6. Easter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme**

The Halton HAF programme will be running again over the Easter holidays, offering free activities and a meal for children and young people aged 5 to 16 who receive benefit-related free school meals.

There are also some places available for other vulnerable groups, including children and young people with SEND, young carers, and those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Different providers offer different activities, with some sessions specifically designed to support SEND children and young people. With a link here: [HAF](#)



### Halton Borough Council Updates

#### **7. A new Little Stars group is now available within Halton Family Hubs.**

This group is for children aged 0–5 with SEND needs, including communication needs. Support can include:

- Communication support
- Early SEND support
- Advice and guidance for parents

Access is through the 0–19 team, who can help families connect with the groups. Contact info below or talk to your Family Hub Early years worker.

<b>Runcorn</b> Telephone: 01928 593056 Email: <a href="mailto:bchft.0-19runcorn@nhs.net">bchft.0-19runcorn@nhs.net</a>	<b>Widnes</b> Telephone: 0151 495 5200 Email: <a href="mailto:bchft.0-19widnes@nhs.net">bchft.0-19widnes@nhs.net</a>
<b>Windmill Hill Family Hub</b> <b>Monday 1-2.30pm</b>	<b>Warrington Rd Family Hub</b> <b>Wednesday 9.30-11.00</b>



## **Cheshire and Merseyside ICB**

The team continues to attend the Health Co-production meetings, where updates are shared from health partners including Cheshire and Merseyside ICB, Bridgewater and Mersey Care. Recent discussions have included progress with Mental Health Support Teams in schools, changes to Speech and Language Therapy provision from 1 April 2026, and ongoing updates linked to the Neurodevelopmental Pathway.

Families are encouraged to let services know as early as possible if they need to cancel an appointment, as this can help appointments be offered to other children and young people waiting for support. If your child has received an ADHD or Autism diagnosis privately, or through Right to Choose, families are also encouraged to let Bridgewater know so records can be updated.

### **9. Speech and Language Therapy updates:**

We are resharing this update from last week regarding Speech and Language Therapy provision in Halton.

Private providers are currently continuing to deliver and monitor Speech and Language provision written into EHCPs. Families whose child has this provision in their EHCP should now have been allocated a provider. If this has not happened, parents are encouraged to contact their child's EHCP Co-ordinator.

From 1 April 2026, Bridgewater Community Healthcare, under the Warrington and Halton Hospital Trust, will take over the Speech and Language Therapy contract in Halton, replacing Communicate. We know many families have experienced long waits for support. While this change will not resolve waiting times immediately, it is an important step in rebuilding local provision. The Forum will continue to share updates as more information becomes available.

### **10. Neurodevelopmental Pathway (NDP) Updates**

We are resharing the following update for families whose children are waiting for assessment through the Neurodevelopmental Pathway (Autism / ADHD).

Bridgview uses a Red / Amber / Green system to prioritise children waiting for assessment. If your child has been waiting a long time, parents can ask the professional who made the referral (such as school or another professional) to request that Bridgewater review and re-stratify the referral.

If a child's status changes from Amber to Red, this may mean they are prioritised for assessment. At present, Bridgewater are only seeing children who are Red status, or those who have moved from Amber to Red. If you are unsure of your child's status you may wish to speak to the professional who made the referral, as they are the person who can ask Bridgewater to review this.

## Other Information & Support

### 11. Online Information Sessions – SEND Reform Consultation

The Government's SEND Reform consultation sets out proposed changes to how support for children and young people with SEND may work in future. While the recent information webinars have now taken place, parent carers can still access the Department for Education guides to help understand the proposals in more detail:

As these proposals continue to develop, it remains important that parent carers stay informed and continue to share their views and experiences where possible. Thank you to everyone who continues to attend sessions, ask questions and speak up on behalf of their children and young people.

You can access the Department for Education guides here:

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

### 12. Survey opportunity

Parent carers are invited to take part in a research study from Erica Boardman at the University of Salford, helping to improve understanding of screen use in autistic children and young people. The questionnaire takes around 20 minutes to complete. Please see the poster for more information.

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/salford/family-media-use-and-autistic-children>



Halton Send Carers Forum



haltonsendcarersforum

[Haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk](https://www.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](https://www.haltonparentcarersforum.org)



**Email:**

[info@haltonparentcarersforum.org](mailto: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](http://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/](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://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/](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** KOOOTH  
[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

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> March 8-9pm



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

26<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> March
- Hummingbird Date 13<sup>th</sup> March

**FORUM CLOSING FOR EASTER 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

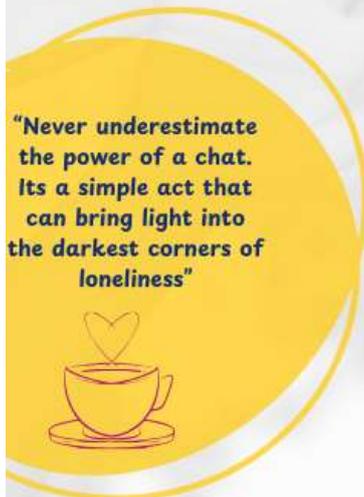
**E-MAIL FOR INFO**  
[Info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk](mailto:Info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk)

**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.



*"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](mailto:info@haltonsendpcf.org)
-  [haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk](http://haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk)

 9:30-11.30am  
**19 MARCH 2026**

 Venue  
**HEATH CAFE**

 Guest  
**N/A**

**contact**  
For families  
with disabled children





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

Halton Send Parent  
Carers Forum



Click & Like



# ZOOM

## HBC UPDATE

With Michaela Bridge

*Informing*  *Empowering*  *Engaging*



zoom link

**THURSDAY 19TH MARCH- 20.00-21.00 PM**

Meeting ID: 871 6532 5061  
Passcode: 927273

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

**ZOOM**



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





# Health

## Update: March



Halton SEND PARENT  
Carer's Forum  
Your voice counts

### Key Points:

- Mental Health Schools Team (MHST) will have 100% school coverage in Halton during 2026/2027
- From 1<sup>st</sup> April Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust will become the new provider for Speech and Language in Halton
- Halton has an above average did not attend rate currently across NHS services (Bridgewater & Merseycare)
- Bridgewater uses a Red/Amber/Green system. Parent/Carers need to speak to the professional who referred into service to inform them of any changes

### Dates for Diary:

- You Said We did Event- 26<sup>th</sup> March, Halton Stadium 10am-12

### HSPCF: Meetings attended

- Health Co-Production
- Emotional Health Well-Being
- Bridgewater Communications
- SEND strategic Board
- SEND Health/Hospital Passport



# PARTICIPANTS NEEDED!

**ARE YOU A PARENT OR CAREGIVER OF AN  
AUTISTIC CHILD AGED 8 – 18?  
DO YOU HAVE VIEWS ABOUT THEIR SCREEN  
USE?**

- Complete a short survey to help us understand more about the role of media in their lives.
- It will take less than 20 minutes and your answers will be anonymous.
- You can also provide your email address to be entered into a competition to win an Amazon voucher (closing date 18<sup>th</sup> March)



**For more information, contact [e.boardman1@edu.salford.ac.uk](mailto:e.boardman1@edu.salford.ac.uk)**



University of  
**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

**This project has been reviewed and approved by the University of Salford Research Ethics Committee**

HALTON SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

# INTERNSHIP



**For young people aged 18 - 24**  
who want to get a job and need extra support to do this

Halton Borough Council's Employment, Learning and Skills Division (Halton People into Jobs and Halton Adult Learning) deliver a Supported Internship programme for young people aged 18 -24 who want to get a job and need extra support to do this.

## Eligibility

Young people 18-24 with an Education Health and Care Plan who want to work.



You are invited to attend our next **Supported Internship Open Event** to find out more, and to see if a Supported Internship is a suitable option for you to start in September 2026

**The Open Event will be held at Kingsway Learning Centre, Widnes WA8 7QY on** **Wednesday 25th March from 3pm until 5pm**

**Limited places available. Don't miss out!**

To book a place contact:

**Mellanie Lythall-Brennan**

0151 511 6233 | [mellanie.lythall-brennan@halton.gov.uk](mailto:mellanie.lythall-brennan@halton.gov.uk)

**Lynsey Carr**

0151 511 7547 | [lynsey.carr@halton.gov.uk](mailto:lynsey.carr@halton.gov.uk) or

