



Halton SEND Carer's Forum



Weekly update – 6th 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 – 12th March and 19th March

We're looking forward to seeing our regulars and hopefully some newcomers to our upcoming coffee morning this week. This week's coffee morning will take place in the stadium with Ben Holmes - Halton's director of education, inclusion and provision. This is a fantastic opportunity to ask any questions and help shape local services.

There are no formal agendas and no pressure. No booking is needed. Drop in for all or part of the morning.

Date: 12th March **Time:** 9.30am – 11.30am **Venue:** DCBL stadium - Widnes

19th of March coffee morning will be held in the Heath Café in Runcorn and it will be another fantastic opportunity for parent carers to get together and support each other.

2. Parent Carer Zoom Session 19th of March

This session will include an overview of key information shared from the coffee morning with Ben Holmes (12th March), followed by a focus on the SEND White Paper.

Parent carers are invited to submit any questions about the recently released 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>

3. Hummingbird Crafts and Pizza Night – 13th of March – Fully Booked

Our next date for our Hummingbird studio craft night is on the 13th of March, and it is now fully booked, were looking forward to another fun evening of crafting and pizza! If you have booked onto a place and you find that your unable to make it please email info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk so we will be able to reallocate places.

Time: 5pm- 7pm **Venue:** Hummingbird Studio



4. **'You said, we did' Event - 26th March – Registration now open**

Halton Borough Council has confirmed details for the next Parent Carer “**You Said, We Did**” event with registration open. This event gives parent carers the opportunity to hear how feedback has been used and where things are going with services in Halton. With a fresh interactive and focused event. Mixing a short presentation and interactive sessions to explore topics sharing ideas and feedback.

To register attendance, you can follow the link provided below:

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

Date: 26.03.2026
Stadium

Time: 10am - 12.00pm

Venue: Bridge Suite DCBL

5. **Talk Halton - Have Your Say – Survey closing soon – 8th of March**

We have been asked by Halton Borough Council to share the following survey regarding Talk Halton. As the service is being reviewed to improve the offer and they would like opinions and experiences to help shape the review.

If anyone who hasn't already can complete the survey it's a fantastic chance to share opinions and experiences of services that will help shape the future of the service for our local community going forward.

[Talk Halton Survey](#)

6. **New Short breaks 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. 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.

Runcorn Telephone: 01928 593056 Email: bchft.0-19runcorn@nhs.net	Widnes Telephone: 0151 495 5200 Email: bchft.0-19widnes@nhs.net
Windmill Hill Family Hub	Warrington Rd Family Hub
Monday 1-2.30pm	Wednesday 9.30-11.00



Cheshire and Merseyside ICB - The Integrated Care Board (ICB) is the NHS organisation responsible for planning and improving health services across Cheshire and Merseyside.

8. Mental health support team – Update

There is positive news regarding Mental Health Support Teams in schools.

Funding has now been agreed which will allow MHST coverage to reach 100% of Halton schools by 2026/27. These teams provide early mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children and young people within schools.

This expansion means more schools will be able to access support for pupils who may be struggling with their mental health.



Cheshire and Merseyside ICB

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) is the NHS organisation responsible for planning and improving health services across Cheshire and Merseyside.

9. Speech and Language Therapy updates:

There has been an update regarding Speech and Language Therapy provision in Halton and who will be delivering services moving forward.

Currently, private providers are continuing to deliver and monitor Speech and Language provision written into Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Families who have Speech and Language provision in their child's EHCP should now have been allocated a provider - If this has not happened, parents are encouraged to contact their child's EHCP Co-ordinator to check what arrangements are in place.

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 Speech and Language support, and while the move to a new provider will not resolve waiting times overnight, it is an important step in rebuilding local provision.

The Forum will continue to work with partners and share updates with parent carers as more information becomes available about how services will develop under the new contract.

10. Neurodevelopmental Pathway (NDP) Updates

This update relates to families whose children are waiting for assessment through the Neurodevelopmental Pathway (Autism / ADHD).

Wood view 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 (school or another professional) to request that Wood view review and re-stratify the referral. This may move a child from Amber to Red, which means they may be prioritised for assessment.

Currently Wood view are only seeing children who are Red status or those who are moving 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 only people who can ask wood view to review.

Other Information & Support

11. Online Information Sessions – SEND Reform Consultation

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) is hosting a series of online information sessions to help families understand the Government's SEND Reform consultation. These sessions are designed to explain the key points in the consultation and what the proposed changes could mean for children and young people with SEND.

These sessions are information webinars, not part of the official consultation process and they may be helpful if you want to better understand the consultation before sharing your views. Parent carers can register for the session that works best for them.

Monday 9 March 2026 10:00 – 11:00	Tuesday 10 March 2026 1:00 – 2:00
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/information-webinar-for-parent-carers-tickets-1983960979697?aff=oddtcreator	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/information-webinar-for-parent-carers-2-tickets-1983968417945?aff=oddtcreator

You can access the Department for Education guides here:

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

Parental engagement now and throughout the process is 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.

12 . The Neurodivergence Task and Finish Group report.

As shared in last week's newsletter, the Neurodivergence Task and Finish Group report was published alongside the SEND White Paper. The report looks at how mainstream education can better support neurodivergent children and young people.

It highlights some of the barriers families often experience and sets out four priority areas for improvement:

- Earlier identification of needs – focusing on identifying support needs rather than waiting for a diagnosis
- Workforce development – improving training so staff better understand neurodiversity
- More inclusive learning environments – adapting classrooms, learning approaches and policies
- Funding and accountability – ensuring funding reflects need and that families have clearer routes for raising concerns

The report also emphasises the importance of listening to neurodivergent children, young people and their families when shaping education and support.

The full report is attached in the email for anyone who would like to read more.



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.



Focus Group Guest:
Ben Holmes-
Director of
Education, Inclusion
and Provision



-  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
12 MARCH 2026

 Venue
HALTON STADIUM

 Guest
BEN HOLMES

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 **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



— 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

