

Weekly update – 17th April 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 – 23rd of April

We hope you have all had a lovely Easter break and managed to find some moments of rest over the holidays.

We're also really pleased to share that Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum has now moved into our new base at Bridgewater Park. We're excited to be settling in and looking forward to welcoming parent carers into our new space on Thursday the 23rd of April for our grand opening coffee morning. Where you can explore our new base and join us for a nice cuppa and a chat.

As always, we're here to listen, share information, and make sure parent carers' voices continue to be heard. Thank you for continuing to be part of the forum community.

Date: 23rd April

Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

Venue: Bridgewater Park School Runcorn

We are also in need of some items to fill our sensory room. Get in touch via email if you have some items you'd like to donate to make this a fantastic space for our children. info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk





HSPCF Events and Opportunities



2. Parent Carer Zoom Session 23rd of April

Thank you to everyone who attended yesterday's coffee morning at the stadium with Ben Holmes yesterday. Our follow-up Zoom session will recap the key points for families who could not attend in person and give another opportunity to share views.

Discussion included the consultation on local Send provision which has just opened, a brief overview of the experts at hand funding and how funding works, as well as how the council is exploring what specialist support families feel is still needed and discussions around the recently released Ofsted/ CQC report findings

Time: 8pm-9pm **Meeting Id:** 890 2652 8931 **Passcode:** 223913

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89026528931?pwd=AMJXQan9OLZp4zW5dC1CKcva2hfeYK.1>

3. Hummingbird Pizza and Craft Night – 8th of May

We are super excited to announce our next Craft and pizza night is on the 8th of May at hummingbird art studio with Alison. If you are interested in attending this event please get in touch via email to be added to the list. It will be a fantastic evening in a relaxing safe environment where children and adults alike can relax and connect with other families. All while being creative in pressure free environment.

Time: 5pm-7pm

Venue: Hummingbird Studio Runcorn

RSVP Email: info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



Halton Borough Council Updates

4. Consultation now open on increased SEND capacity in Halton

Halton Borough Council has opened a consultation on plans to increase local SEND capacity through several new inclusion bases in mainstream schools across Halton. The proposals aim to create additional specialist provision for children and young people with SEND, including support for speech, language and communication needs, interaction needs, and cognition and learning.

The consultation runs from 15 April 2026 to 13 May 2026, and parent carers can share their views online or in writing. Public meetings are also taking place at each of the schools involved. This is an important opportunity for families to have their say on how local SEND provision develops and whether these proposals reflect the support children and young people need in Halton.

Consultation closes: 13 May 2026 **Link:** <http://www.halton.gov.uk/RBConsultation>

Or if you prefer to attend an in person consultation event these are the available events

- Windmill Hill Primary School – Monday 27 April, 4.30pm
- Gorsewood Primary School – Tuesday 28 April, 4.45pm
- Fairfield Primary School – Wednesday 29 April, 5.00pm
- Hale Church of England Primary School – Thursday 30 April, 5.00pm
- Saints Peter and Paul Catholic High School – Tuesday 5 May, 5.00pm

5. 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 ND pathway, 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](#)



Halton Borough Council Updates

6. New Edition of Send Newsletter

The latest edition of the Halton Borough Council SEND Newsletter is now available.

This edition includes Videos and updates from the recent “You Said, We’re Doing” event. It is helpful to see the information shared on the day, along with the wider update on current SEND work across Halton.

The newsletter also includes updates on speech and language therapy, Family Hubs, short breaks service and other areas of support and service development that may be helpful for families to be aware of.

If you were unable to attend the event or would like to look back over the information shared, this newsletter is well worth a read.

Link:

https://news.communications.halton.gov.uk/BC6DD929BD48B50E98398B9A675193834F0FD243ECD47346CE75B4B51315AEA9/A16EBCD403A37C8941C1B6AE3CD73BA3/VIB?es_c=A16EBCD403A37C8941C1B6AE3CD73BA3&es_cl=5D91EFB356D30F64D2C82417636B3F4A&es_id=p4e%c2%a329

7. Little Stars group 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 Monday 1-2.30pm	Warrington Rd Family Hub Wednesday 9.30-11.00



Cheshire and Merseyside ICB

The team continues to attend the Health Co-production meetings where updates are shared from health partners. Families are still encouraged to let services know as early as possible if they need to cancel an appointments so they can be reoffered to another individual waiting for support. If your child has received an ADHD or Autism diagnosis privately or through Right to Choose can families also get in touch so records can be updated.

8. Bridgewater and Warrington hospital Merger

From 1 April 2026, Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust formally came together as one organisation now called North Cheshire and Mersey NHS Foundation Trust.

This change has been planned for some time and is intended to bring hospital and community services closer together with the aim of making care more joined up and strengthening services over time. For families the key message is that there are no immediate changes to the care being provided. Services will continue to run with the same staff, in the same places, and with the same contact details and referral routes.

9. Speech and Language Therapy updates:

We are resharing this update 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, North Cheshire and Mersey foundation 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. Beyond Newsletter – Cheshire and Merseyside integrated partnership

We are also sharing the latest Beyond update, which includes wider health news from across Cheshire and Merseyside.

This edition includes updates on:

- community health waiting times
- support for children and young people with complex needs
- work taking place to improve how services for children and young people work together

Please see the attached PDF for full details.

Other Information & Support

11. Send reform sessions and Wrap around care.

Families First is also holding a dedicated peer network meeting to help make sure the wraparound and out-of-school sector is represented in the Government's consultation on the proposed SEND reforms.

The concern being raised is that the current proposals focus heavily on schools and early years, without fully recognising the important role played by out-of-school settings in supporting children and families. This session is aimed at supporting as many settings as possible to respond to the consultation, share their experiences, and help make sure the wraparound sector has a voice in these proposed changes.

This includes settings and activities such as breakfast clubs, after school clubs, holiday clubs, leisure activities and voluntary groups. Please see the attached flyer for full details with Parent carers being invited to attend either session.

12. Caudwell Children - Free Family Workshops

Caudwell Children is offering free workshops for families, including Autism: Next Steps Workshops for children, young people and parents.

Sessions are available in person and online and cover areas such as communication, emotions, sensory needs, puberty and friendships. They also offer other virtual workshops, including sleep, eating and nutrition and meeting sensory needs, where a diagnosis is not required.

Find out more / apply here [Workshops | Caudwell Children](#)



Halton Send Carers Forum



haltonsendcarersforum

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

APRIL 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 16th April- 9.30-11.30 am- with Ben Holmes
- Bridgewater Park Hub 23rd April- 9.30-11.30
- Bridgewater Park Hub 30th April- 9.30-11.30

ZOOM

- Zoom with Michaela Bridge 23rd April 8-9pm



NEW HSPCF HUB

After Easter we are delighted to be based in our new Hub at Bridgewater Park school. We will host our parent coffee sessions here and going forward there will be opportunities for you to have 1:1 discussions with HSPCF staff here



EVENTS

- Sync Club 18th April

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
23 APRIL 2026

 Venue
BRIDGEWATER PARK SCHOOL, WA7 2LW

 Guest
N/A

contact
For families with disabled children





HaltonSEND 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 23RD APRIL - 20.00-21.00 PM

Meeting ID: 890 2652 8931
Passcode: 223913

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

ZOOM



E-MAIL- FOR INFO
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 1st 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- 26th March, Halton Stadium 10am-12

HSPCF: Meetings attended

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