

Working together for SEND families

We know that not every family will already be familiar with the role of the Parent Carers Forum, so we are resharing our simple guide to explain who we are, what co-production means, and the different ways parent carers can get involved.

We hope this is helpful both for families who are new to the forum and for those who have been members with us for a while. Please do feel free to share it with other parent carers who may find it useful.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR SEND FAMILIES

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO OUR FORUM

We want to explain what the Parent Carer Forum is and what we do.
We listen to parent carers and share your experiences to help improve services. This is called co-production.
Your voice matters.

1 WHAT IS CO-PRODUCTION?

Co-production means working together. Parent carers share their experiences. Services listen.
We talk about what is working well and what is not working well.
We use this to help improve support. It does not mean staying quiet.

- ✓ Families share
- ✓ Services listen
- ✓ We work together
- ✓ Support improves

2 WORKING WITH HBC AND THE ICB

We meet with Halton Borough Council (HBC), the NHS ICB and other local services.
We feed back what parent carers tell us. We raise themes, ask questions and follow up. We help services improve and help hold organisations to account.

We may not fix individual cases, but we can raise common issues.

3 HOW CAN PARENTS GET INVOLVED?

There are lots of ways to engage with us:

- Coffee mornings
- Evening Zooms
- Our closed Facebook group
- Reading our weekly newsletter
- Taking part in surveys about local services
- Sending us an email

4 SUPPORT FOR PARENT CARERS

Our coffee mornings are a friendly, supportive space. Parent carers can meet others in similar situations. We often invite guests from different services. They may share information or ask parent carers for their views about what is working well and what is not working well.

- Connect with others
- Share experiences
- Ask questions
- Hear from services

5 CAN FAMILIES STILL SPEAK UP?

Yes. Parents and carers can still speak up, make complaints and campaign as individuals. As a funded Parent Carer Forum, we have rules to follow. These rules affect how the forum works, but they do not take away parents' rights.

Your voice still matters.

Thank you for sharing your views and experiences.
Your voice makes a difference.

Questions or concerns?
Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum

2. Forum Closed for Half Term 22nd May – 1st June

Please note that the forum will be closed for the week over half term. Any emails or messages received during this time will be picked up once we are back open on the 2nd of June.

We hope all of our families have a lovely half term and get the chance to enjoy some of the beautiful sunshine.

3. Parent Carer Coffee Morning - 4th of June

Our first coffee morning back after half term will take place in Widnes at the DCBL Stadium, where we will be joined by Ben Holmes, Director of Education, Inclusion and Provision at Halton Borough Council. This will be a valuable opportunity for parent carers to hear updates, ask questions and share their experiences around local education and SEND services. As always, these sessions are a lovely chance to come together for a cuppa and a chat, and please do feel free to share this with other parent carers who may like to come along.

Date: 4th June 2026

Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

Venue: DCBL Stadium – Widnes

Hummingbird Pizza and Craft Night – 19th June

Our next **Hummingbird Pizza and Craft Night** will take place on 19th June with places now available to book.

These sessions are always a lovely opportunity for families to come together, enjoy some creative activities, and spend time with other parent carers in a calm and welcoming space. We know these evenings are a really valued chance for families to relax, connect and enjoy time together.

If you would like to attend, please email us to book a place and be added to the list.

info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



Halton Borough Council Updates

5. Halton SEND Reform Plan

A big thank you to Kelly Carey for joining our recent Zoom session, answering parent carers' questions, and helping explain more about the proposed SEND reforms and what they could mean locally.

Kelly shared that the national SEND reform consultation has now closed with Kelly also sharing that Halton Borough Council has now submitted its draft SEND reform plans, which will be reviewed by representatives from the Department for Education before the final plans are developed and submitted towards the end of June.

There is still time for families and professionals to share their views on Halton's local SEND Reform Plan using the online form below. This feedback will help shape local arrangements and make sure future services reflect what matters most to children, young people and families in Halton.

[Halton's Engagement Events - Government SEND Reforms: Putting Children & Young People First](#)

6. Sensory Partnership with Shine Therapy

Halton Borough Council has shared that Shine Therapy Services will be working in Halton during 2026 and 2027 to provide training for parents, carers and professionals. The training will include practical strategies and interventions to help better support children and young people with sensory needs, as well as a wider offer around speech, language and communication.

Topics expected to be covered include:

- sensory lifestyles and sensory circuits
- toileting and developing continence
- restrictive eating and mealtime challenges
- attention, listening and processing

There will also be training for professionals in areas such as Attention Autism / Bucket Therapy, Lego Therapy, and communication to support function and independence. We will share a further update once more information is available on how parents, carers and professionals will be able to access and book the training sessions.

Cheshire and Merseyside ICB Updates

7. Sensory Website - In partnership with Halton borough council

Halton Borough Council, in partnership with the ICB, has launched a new Sensory Support website for families, carers and professionals.

The website brings together information, advice, resources and practical strategies to support children and young people with sensory processing differences. This includes the new Halton Sensory Strategies Toolkit, alongside supporting documents and useful links.

The website may be helpful for families and professionals supporting children and young people in early years, primary and secondary settings.

Link - [Sensory Support Website](#)

Link - [Sensory - resources and links](#)

8. Children and young people's sleep survey

Work is taking place through the Beyond Programme and the Merseyside Youth Association (MYA) to develop a guide for parents and carers supporting children and young people with sleep difficulties.

To help with this, parents and carers are being asked to complete a short survey. The survey is looking at the main sleep difficulties families need help with, how easy it is to access support, and what support could be improved or developed further.

If sleep is an area that affects your child or young person, this is a useful opportunity to share your experiences and help shape future support for families.

Survey closes: Friday 5th June at 6pm

Link: <https://forms.office.com/e/V6FaZQcXVz>

9. ADHD and sleep medication repeat prescriptions

Families are reminded that requests for repeat ADHD and sleep medication for children and young people in Halton should now be sent by email only.

Requests should be emailed 7–10 days before medication runs out to:
bchft.halton.prescriptions@nhs.net

Please note that up-to-date height, weight and blood pressure measurements from the last 3–6 months must be available before a prescription can be issued.

Other Information & Support

10. Catalyst Museum – New Quiet Hours

Catalyst has launched new Quiet Hours sessions, giving families the chance to explore the museum in their own time and at their own pace. These sessions are designed to be more accessible for people with SEND needs, with reduced noise in exhibition spaces, a dedicated quiet space, and sensory packs and ear defenders available. Quiet Hours are taking place on the 25th June and 16th July, from 3pm to 5pm, with £5 per person entry. Families can ask at the front desk or follow Catalyst's social media for more information. With free carer tickets also available.



catalyst
SCIENCE DISCOVERY CENTRE AND MUSEUM

€5^{pp} ENTRY

BIG REACTIONS LESS NOISE

Explore Catalyst in your own time and at your own pace. Ideal for people with SEND needs.

- Reduced noise in exhibition spaces.
- Dedicated quiet space.
- Sensory packs and ear defenders available.
- Get a sneak peek at our upcoming Synergy Gallery design plans.

Ask at the front desk or follow our socials for the upcoming Quiet Hours events on the 21st May, 25th June and 16th July. 3pm-5pm.

[@CATALYSTSDC](#) [CATALYST MUSEUM](#) [CATALYSTSDC](#)

THE SYNERGY PROJECT

Sign-up to our newsletter for Quiet Hours and Catalyst updates.

Made possible with
Heritage Fund

The Synergy Project is funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Catalyst is a registered charity, and all proceeds go towards keeping our doors open for people of all ages to visit and learn.

11. Funding and support for families

Caudwell Children - Families may find Caudwell Children helpful for both support sessions and some types of specialist equipment funding. This can include certain powered wheelchairs, specialist buggies, therapy tricycles, multi-sensory equipment, and some specialised car seats and harnesses. They also offer autism-related support, including assessment, occupational therapy assessment, and family support sessions on topics such as sleep, sensory needs, language and communication, eating and nutrition, and change and transition.

<http://www.caudwellchildren.com/services>

WellChild - Families may also find WellChild's grants information helpful as a starting point when looking for funding for specialist equipment, therapies or respite. Their website signposts to a range of organisations that may be able to help, including support with items such as wheelchairs, car seats, sleep equipment, sensory equipment and other specialist items.

[Grants for families | WellChild](#)

Dreams Come True - Families may also be interested in Dreams Come True, which supports children with serious illness, disability or life-limiting conditions. Alongside community projects, such as sensory spaces, they may also be able to offer support for individual children and families. Including things like equipment, sensory spaces and UK breaks.

[Individual Dream Eligibility - Dreams Come True Charity](#)



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