

Summer Closure 17th July – 2nd September

As we come towards the end of the academic year, we wanted to share a reminder of our summer closure dates with families.

The forum will close for the summer on 17th July and will re-open on 2nd September. Our first coffee morning back will then take place on 10th September, and we are already looking forward to welcoming families back after the summer break.

We hope all of our families have a lovely summer and get the chance to enjoy some of the lovely weather, rest and quality time together over the break.



FORUM'S OUT FOR SUMMER

Thank you for being part of our forum community

We hope all of our families have a lovely summer break. Here are our key dates before and after the holidays.

- ✓ Forum closes for summer: 17 July 2026
- ✓ Forum reopens: 2 September 2026
- ✓ First coffee morning back: 10 September 2026
- ✓ We look forward to welcoming families back in September

We're here to support, connect and empower

- Meet other parent carers
- Share important information
- Get support & advice

Have a wonderful Summer

info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk
haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk
Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum

The poster features a vibrant summer theme with a yellow and blue color palette. It includes illustrations of a sun, a beach scene with a hat and sunglasses, hands holding colorful popsicles, a watermelon slice, and a pair of sunglasses. The Halton SEND Parent Carer's Forum logo is prominently displayed in the top right corner of the poster.

2. Job Opportunity - Parent Co-ordinator opportunity

Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum is currently recruiting for a **Parent Co-ordinator** to help strengthen parent participation, support families and influence positive change across local SEND services.

This role is based in **Halton** and offers an opportunity to be part of a supportive and passionate team, help shape local services through **co-production**, and make a real difference for **SEND families** across the borough.

Key details; Hours: Fridays, 9.30am – 2.30pm, **Salary:** £12.71 per hour

The poster is titled 'JOIN OUR TEAM!' in large, bold, blue and green letters. To the right of the title is a small graphic of a heart with a pulse line. Below the title, the role 'Parent Co-ordinator' is written in a pink, cursive font on a pink banner. The text 'Help improve the lives of SEND families across Halton' is in bold black. Below this, a paragraph describes the role: 'At Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum, we believe every parent carer's voice matters. We're looking for an enthusiastic, organised and compassionate Parent Co-ordinator to help us strengthen parent participation, support families and influence positive change across local SEND services.' To the right of this text is a circular photo of two women sitting at a table, smiling and looking at a document. Above the photo is the Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum logo, which consists of two overlapping speech bubbles (yellow and blue) and the text 'Halton SEND PARENT Carer's Forum Your voice counts'. Below the photo is a blue box titled 'THE ROLE' containing five items: 'LOCATION: Halton' (with a location pin icon), 'HOURS: Fridays, 9.30am – 2.30pm' (with a clock icon), 'SALARY: £12.71 per hour' (with a pound sign icon), 'CONTRACT: 3-month rolling contract' (with a document icon), and 'START DATE: 4 September 2026' (with a calendar icon). To the right of this box is another blue box titled 'WHY JOIN US?' with a heart icon, containing five bullet points: 'Make a real difference for SEND families.', 'Be part of a supportive and passionate team.', 'Help shape local SEND services through co-production.', 'Work flexibly while supporting your community.', and 'Develop new skills and build valuable professional experience.' Each bullet point is preceded by a small icon. At the bottom left is a photo of a family (father, mother, and child) looking at a tablet. To the right of this photo is a pink circle with a heart icon and the text 'Informing Empowering Engaging'. At the bottom right is a dark blue footer with the Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum logo, the text 'Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum', and the website 'haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk'.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Halton SEND PARENT Carer's Forum
Your voice counts

Parent Co-ordinator

Help improve the lives of SEND families across Halton

At Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum, we believe every parent carer's voice matters. We're looking for an enthusiastic, organised and compassionate Parent Co-ordinator to help us strengthen parent participation, support families and influence positive change across local SEND services.

THE ROLE

- LOCATION:** Halton
- HOURS:** Fridays, 9.30am – 2.30pm
- SALARY:** £12.71 per hour
- CONTRACT:** 3-month rolling contract
- START DATE:** 4 September 2026

WHY JOIN US?

- Make a real difference for SEND families.
- Be part of a supportive and passionate team.
- Help shape local SEND services through co-production.
- Work flexibly while supporting your community.
- Develop new skills and build valuable professional experience.

Informing Empowering Engaging

Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum
haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk

3. Halton Borough Council coffee morning dates – autumn term

We also wanted to share the upcoming Halton Borough Council coffee morning dates for the autumn term, so families have plenty of notice as we begin to look ahead to September.

These sessions are a great opportunity for parent carers to come together, hear updates, ask questions and share their experiences directly with Halton Borough Council in an informal setting at the DCBL Stadium in Widnes. We will continue to share more information on each session and any guest focus closer to the time.



Halton SEND
Carer's Forum
Your Voice Counts

HSPCF & HBC

COFFEE MORNINGS

AUTUMN 2026

SEPT 24 09:30 AM	DCBL HALTON STADIUM with Ben Holmes- Director of Education, Inclusion and provision
OCT 22 09:30 AM	DCBL HALTON STADIUM with Ben Holmes- Director of Education, Inclusion and provision
NOV 12 09:30 AM	DCBL HALTON STADIUM with Kelly Carey- Head of SEND and Inclusion
DEC 10 09:30 AM	DCBL HALTON STADIUM with Kelly Carey- Head of SEND and Inclusion

www.haltionsendcarersforum.org.uk
www.halton.gov.uk



HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Halton Borough Council Updates

4. Department for Education SEND consultation updates

Families may wish to be aware that the **Department for Education** has published fact sheets linked to its current SEND consultations. We know these are important topics for many families, so we are sharing the fact sheets for anyone who may wish to read more and have their say in the upcoming consultations

These include information about proposals on Education Otherwise Than At School (**EOTAS**) and upfront funding for mainstream schools. The fact sheets are designed to help parents, carers and professionals better understand the proposals before responding. The EOTAS consultation need to know guide explains that no decisions have been made, that any changes would not come in before September 2030 at the earliest, and that the consultation is open until **18 September 2026**.

[SEND reform: education otherwise than at school – what parents and carers of children and young people need to know - GOV.UK](#)

The separate consultation on **upfront funding for mainstream schools** looks at whether more SEND funding should reach schools earlier, so support can be put in place more quickly. The government states that this would not change a child's legal rights or the support set out in an EHC plan.

[Upfront funding for mainstream schools: creating a 'local SEND inclusion formula' – what parents and carers of children and young people need to know - GOV.UK](#)

5. HAF – Summer Holiday Activity and Food

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme which offers free activities and healthy meals during the school holidays. The programme is available for children and young people aged 4 to 16 who receive benefits-related free school meals alongside there are being a number of places available to other vulnerable groups of children and young people, such as **SEND (until 25), Young Carers** and those Not in Education, Employment or Training (**NEET**.) [Summer HAF Link](#)

6. Sign up to the Halton Borough Council Send Newsletter

Families may also wish to look at the latest Halton Borough Council SEND newsletter which includes updates and information from a range of local services. We have included the link to the latest edition below, and families can also sign up to receive future newsletters directly.

[Sign up for the Halton Borough Council Newsletter](#)

https://news.communications.halton.gov.uk/C66D9B0C4B52A0488ED79F2159B551538760A6C3B1390C972E1EE3345C613853/A16EBCD403A37C8941C1B6AE3CD73BA3/VIB?es_c=A16EBCD403A37C8941C1B6AE3CD73BA3&es_cl=BFB62845

Health and Cheshire and Merseyside ICB Updates

7. Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing directory

Before its official launch, families are being invited to explore the new Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing online service directory for Halton which has been created by staff from Halton's ICB.

The directory is based on the Thrive approach and is intended to help children, young people, families and professionals find the right level of emotional health and wellbeing support locally. The directory includes services and support for different levels of need, to ensure children are directed to the right service without unnecessary barriers. There are services available for the following four areas of need: Getting advice and signposting, Getting Help, Getting More Help and Getting Risk Support.

Parent carers are encouraged to have a look through the website and complete the **Thrive Feedback Form** so that feedback can help shape the directory and make sure it is as useful, robust as possible for families in Halton.

<https://www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk/thrive>

8. Cheshire and Merseyside Neurodevelopment Pathway resources

Families may wish to look at the webpages for the new Cheshire and Merseyside Neurodevelopment Pathway. Including the Knowing Me profiling tool, which aims to better support neurodivergent children, young people and their families.

Within this resource families may find some of the information linked to the PINS project helpful. Although the **Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools** work was designed for schools, there are several useful training resources, videos or webinars that parent carers may also find helpful to explore.

[Neurodevelopment pathway - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#)

[PINS - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#)

9. Sleep medication prescribing update

Some families are now receiving letters explaining that where a child or young person is stable on melatonin, prescribing is moving to the GP. ADHD medication will continue to be issued by the Community Paediatrics / Neurodevelopmental Service via bchft.halton.prescriptions@nhs.net. If families experience any difficulties ordering sleep medication through their GP after receiving this letter, they are advised to contact the Neurodevelopmental Nursing Team via bchft.haltonndnt@nhs.net.

Other Information & Support

10. Home to school and college transport info – by Contact

With us approaching the end of the academic year families may also wish to take a look at Contact's school transport information for England, which explains rights and entitlements around home to school and college transport for children and young people with SEND. This may be particularly helpful for families who have questions about eligibility, transport options, challenging decisions, or support for young people over 16.

Link: [School transport in England | Contact](#)

11. SENSory Fest! – Wirral

Families may also be interested in **SENSory Fest** taking place **on** Saturday 29th August 2026 at Birkenhead Park.

This event has been designed by SEND parents, for SEND parents and is planned as a relaxed, supportive family festival across three ticketed sessions during the day. The activities included are set to feature inflatables, sensory and foam play, a LEGO tent, therapy animals, bubble shows, trampolines, and entertainment from Mr Tumble Liverpool and Friends, alongside parent advice hubs, accessible facilities, and ARFID / beige-food aware catering.

It has been planned with children who have a SEND diagnosis, or who are on the pathway, in mind, with siblings, friends and family also very welcome.

[Buy tickets – SENSory Fest! – Birkenhead Park](#)



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

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

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

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

SIGNPOST FOR HALTON



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 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 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.merseycare.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.merseycare.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



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

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.



Better
support



Families
heard



Services
improve



Inclusive
future



Questions or concerns?

Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum

info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



Halton Mental Health Support Team **Summer of self care**

Free summer workshops for parents, carers and young people to help Halton families support their young people's wellbeing.

Self esteem

- Understanding how we can experience low self esteem
- Tips to improve self esteem
- Looking after you, so you can support them!

Coping with big emotions

- How big emotions affect our bodies and behaviours
- How Zones of Regulation strategies can help when coping with big emotions.

Transition to high school

- Preparing everyone for the move!
- Tips and tools to navigate week one in your new school and beyond.

To register your interest, scan this QR code.



Please note there is a maximum capacity of 15.

Parent and carers are able to attend alone, however, please make sure any young people are accompanied by an adult.



Date and time	Workshop	Location
Wednesday 22 July 1.30pm to 2.30pm	Self esteem	Warrington Road Family Hub, Naylor Road, Widnes WA8 0BS
Wednesday 29 July 10.30am to 11.30am	Self esteem	Halton Lodge Family Hub, Grangeway, Halton Lodge, Runcorn WA7 5LU
Wednesday 5 August 1.30pm to 2.30pm	Coping with big emotions	Warrington Road Family Hub, Naylor Road, Widnes WA8 0BS
Wednesday 12 August 10.30am to 11.30am	Coping with big emotions	Halton Lodge Family Hub, Grangeway, Halton Lodge, Runcorn WA7 5LU
Wednesday 19 August 1.30pm to 2.30pm	Transitioning to high school	Warrington Road Family Hub, Naylor Road, Widnes WA8 0BS
Wednesday 26 August 10.30am to 11.30am	Transitioning to high school	Halton Lodge Family Hub, Grangeway, Halton Lodge, Runcorn WA7 5LU

All workshops will involve both a parent led and child led session. Both of these will take place at the same time, ending with a fun craft based wellbeing activity that can be taken home.

If you have any problems booking onto the workshops, please contact the team on **01925 664 120**

HeadzUp Halton

Young
people's
drop in

A young people's drop in is informal and for children and young people aged 17 and under and their families or carers.



The hubs are in the community and are supported by staff who can provide support and advice.



Drop by to see us:

Every Tuesday from 2.30pm to 4.30pm at **The Hub, Grangeway, Runcorn, WA7 5HA**

Starting 6 June 2024

Every Thursday from 2.30pm to 4.30pm at **Warrington Road Childrens Centre, Widnes, WA8 0BS**



This is not a CRISIS service. You can contact the crisis team on **01744 415 640**, 24 hours a day seven days a week.



Not sure where to turn? We're here for you, whenever you need us.

Free, confidential mental wellbeing support for young people.
Whenever you feel overwhelmed, lonely, low or just need some
time for yourself, we're here.

Find community support, have one-to-one text chats with
professionals or explore self-tools, without needing a referral.



Scan to register
or visit **kooth.com**



Providing NHS services