

HSPCF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

18th September 2026



Welcome back! Here are this week's updates from
Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum.

1 PARENT CARER FORUM UPDATES



Coffee Morning – 24th September – DCBL Stadium 9.30-11.30

Our next joint coffee morning with Halton Borough Council will take place on Thursday 24th September, 9.30–11.30am at DCBL Halton Stadium.

We'll be joined by Ben Holmes, Director of Education, Inclusion and Provision, alongside Kate Charlton (DCO) and Eileen, who will be sharing an update on the Short Breaks service.

It will be a chance for parent carers to hear directly from the SEND team, ask questions, raise any concerns and have an informal chat with the guest speakers. No need to book – just come along.

Parent Zoom – 1st October 2026 -

For parent carers who aren't able to attend the Halton Borough Council coffee morning on 24th September we'll also be holding an evening Zoom session on Thursday 1st October, 8–9pm.

This will be another opportunity to hear the key updates, ask questions and take part in the discussion from home. No pressure to talk or ask questions.

Zoom Info

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516408268?pwd=BPF8RRoaFSRiEyKbjRH3UDrB7wdHj0.1>

Meeting ID - 82516408268

Password - 506737

You are not alone – we're here for you 



info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



www.haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk



HaltonSENDCarersforum



Cheshire and Merseyside
Integrated Care Board

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES



2 HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES

Local offer Live

Halton's Local Offer LIVE events are coming up in October bringing together SEND services from across health, council services, support groups, activity providers and third-sector organisations.

Families will be able to speak directly to services, ask questions, find out what support is available and learn more about Halton's Local Offer.

Wednesday 7th October, 3–6pm

Brookvale Family Hub, Runcorn,
WA7 6BJ

Friday 9th October, 9am–1pm

Ditton Family Hub, Widnes,
WA8 8DF

For more information, contact
tracy.ryan@halton.gov.uk.

SHINE Therapy Parent/Carer Training Programme

HBC has commissioned **SHINE Therapy Services** to deliver a programme of training sessions. The programme covers a range of topics that may support families including sensory processing, visual support and toileting and developing continence, and social stories.

The sessions are designed to give parent carers a better understanding, alongside practical ideas and strategies that can be used in day-to-day life. To View the full programme and book a place:

[Parent / Carer Training
Programme 2026–2027 |
Eventbrite](#)

WELL Runcorn

WELL Runcorn is a new one-stop hub in the former Runcorn Library, bringing together health, care, education and community support under one roof. Families can access health and wellbeing advice, mental health and family support, Riverside College courses, and community-based help without needing to travel to multiple locations.:

ncm.wellruncornhub@nhs.net

 *You are not alone – we're here for you*  



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[HaltonSENDCarersforum](#)



Cheshire and Merseyside
Integrated Care Board

NHS / ICB UPDATES



Welcome back! Here are this week's key updates from NHS and ICB partners.

3 NHS / ICB UPDATES

Right to Choose - Neurodevelopmental Assessments

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside have developed a new set of FAQs for families about Right to Choose ND assessments. The FAQs aim to show clear and accurate information about what Right to Choose is, how it works and what families need to know when considering this route.

Read the FAQs here:

[Families – NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#)

Thrive -Emotional Health & Wellbeing Directory

The ICB has developed a new CYPs Emotional Health and Wellbeing Online Service Directory for families, professionals and young people across Halton. The directory is designed to help people find the right level of local support including: Getting advice and signposting, Getting Help, Getting More Help ,Getting Risk Support.

You can explore the directory here: haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk/thrive

There is a Feedback Form at the top of the page to collect opinions of users.

Warrington & Halton SEND Health and Hospital Passport

Has now launched! helping health professionals understand and provide the right support when CYP and adults with SEND access health services. The passport has been co-produced with parent carers and health professionals and is designed to help people share important information about their individual needs, communication and support with the aim of making health care experiences safer, easier and more person centred. A copy of the new Health and Hospital Passport is attached to this week's newsletter for families to save, look at and edit if they wish too.



Stay connected

Look out for our weekly newsletters, coffee mornings, Zooms and events for more information, support and opportunities for parent carers across Halton.



You are not alone - we're here for you 



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www.haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk



HaltonSENDCarersforum



Cheshire and Merseyside
Integrated Care Board



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 SEND
Parent Carer's Forum
Your voice counts

WHAT'S ON SEPTEMBER 2026

Events, support and opportunities
for SEND families in Halton



**10
SEP**
9.30-11.30AM

PARENT AND CARERS SUPPORT - COFFEE MORNING

Bridgewater Park, WA7 2LW

Come along for a brew, a chat and support
from other parent carers.



**17
SEP**
9.30-11.30AM

PARENT AND CARERS SUPPORT - COFFEE MORNING With Dean Tierney

Come along to hear from Dean, ask questions
and chat with other parent carers.



**18
SEP**
5.00-7.00PM

HUMMINGBIRD

Arts and crafts session for families with SEND

Get creative, connect with other families and
enjoy a relaxed, fun session together.



**24
SEP**
9.30-11.30AM

PARENT AND CARERS SUPPORT - COFFEE MORNING

With Ben Holmes

Director of Education, Inclusion and Provision
Also joining us:

- Kate Charlton – Designated Clinical Officer
- Eileen – from Short Breaks

Come along to hear from our guests, ask questions
and share your views.



**26
SEP**

SYNC CLUB

Monthly SEND Youth Needs Club

A safe and friendly space for young people
with SEND to socialise, take part in activities
and be themselves.



*We are here to
support you*



Peer to peer
support and advice



Share experiences
and information



Have your say and
help shape services



Friendly, welcoming
and judgement free



Everyone
welcome!



Everyone welcome!

FOR MORE INFORMATION



haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk



info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum

contact

For families
with disabled children

HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Informing *Empowering* *Engaging*



COFFEE MORNING

PARENT ADVICE, SUPPORT & CHECK-IN

Join us for a coffee morning with Ben Holmes, Kate Charlton and Eileen from Short Breaks.

Ben will provide a Halton Borough Council (HBC) update. Kate and Eileen will have dedicated time within the session to share an update and discuss where things are currently up to with Short Breaks. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, share your views and find out more about the latest developments and support available for children and young people with SEND in Halton.



MEET
other parent
carers



SHARE
experiences
and information



GET
support and
advice



DATE
Wednesday
24th September



TIME
9.30 – 11.30am



VENUE
Halton DCBL Stadium
Widnes



GUEST / SPEAKERS
Ben Holmes
Director of Education,
Inclusion and Provision
Kate Charlton
Designated Clinical Officer
Eileen
Short Breaks

We look forward to seeing you! 

GET IN TOUCH



haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk



info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



Halton SEND Parent Carers Forum

*Join us
online!*



*Everyone
welcome!*



HSPCF & HBC EVENING ZOOM

For parent carers who weren't able to attend
the coffee morning in person on 24th September

Join us for an evening Zoom session to hear the
key updates, ask questions and take part in the
discussion from home.

*Same
conversation,
different time!*



DATE
**Thursday 1st
October**



TIME
8pm–9pm

Zoom Info



Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516408268?
pwd=BPF8RRoaFSRiEyKbjjRH3UDrB7wdHj0.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516408268?pwd=BPF8RRoaFSRiEyKbjjRH3UDrB7wdHj0.1)

Meeting ID: 825 1640 8268

Password: 506737

Scan to join



Your voice counts 



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www.haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk



HALTON LOCAL OFFER LIVE

We would love you to join us for our first Halton Local Offer LIVE event

★ **Wednesday 7th October**
3-6pm
Brookvale Family Hub
Runcorn
WA7 6BJ

★ **Friday 9th October**
9am-1pm
Ditton Family Hub
Widnes
WA8 8DF

Local Offer LIVE is a marketplace event for families, bringing together services across Halton from health, Council services, support groups, activity groups and third sector organisations.

Come along and meet a wide range of SEND (Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities) services all under one roof.

This is your opportunity to:

- Speak directly to services;
- Ask questions;
- Find out what support is available;
- Make connections;
- Learn more about Halton's Local Offer.

To find out more, please contact: tracy.ryan@halton.gov.uk





Parent / Carer Training Programme 2026 - 2027

Shine Therapy Services has been commissioned by Halton Borough Council to deliver a training programme specifically for the parents / carers of children and young people resident within the Borough.

The programme aims to empower parents / carers with knowledge that can be applied practically in the care and support of children and young people.

The training sessions to be delivered are set out in the table below. Please see Eventbrite for full details and to book tickets. No admittance without Eventbrite ticket.

23/09/2026	Toileting and Developing Continence
05/10/2026	Blank Levels
17/10/2026	Introduction to Sensory Processing Differences and Challenges + Introduction to Sensory Lifestyles
21/10/2026	Visuals for Understanding + Low Tec Augmentative and Alternate Communication (AAC)
25/11/2026	Intensive Interaction
16/01/2027	Restrictive Eating and Mealtime Challenges
26/01/2027	Play
10/02/2027	Toileting and Developing Continence
02/03/2027	Talking Mats + Social Stories + Comic Strip Conversations
16/03/2027	Visuals for Understanding + Low Tec Augmentative and Alternate Communication (AAC)



Warrington and Halton SEND Health and Hospital Passport is here!

Your needs. Your information. Your voice.

- helping health professionals provide the right support, every time.

The coproduced Warrington and Halton health and Hospital passport is being launched to improve health care experiences for children, young people and adults with SEND, helping them to access services **safely, confidently** and with the **right support**.

Owned by you and your family – The passport is owned and completed by the child, young person or adult with SEND, together with their family or those who support them.

Share it with health services – It can be shared with any health service, including while you are on a waiting list, to help improve your experience and ensure staff understand your needs. Services can also save it to your patient record.

Personalised to individual needs – Every passport is fully editable, allowing you to include information that is unique and important to you.

Easy to keep up to date – Each page can be completed, signed and dated individually, making it simple to record changes, track updates and re-share information whenever needed.

'At a Glance' information – A dedicated 'At a Glance' page provides a quick, easy-to-read summary of the most important information for health professionals and services.

Detailed information for better support – The passport captures personalised information that can help health professionals understand what makes you feel comfortable, communicate effectively with you and provide appropriate **reasonable adjustments**.

Roll out will be supported by WarrPac and Halton SEND Parent Carer's Forum, in September 2026. Please review websites or contact the forums for Check in and Chat Sessions, coffee mornings and further details.



- warrpac@gmail.com
- 07587349338 / 07587349339

- info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk
- 07784 240181

The **Warrington and Halton Health and Hospital Passport** will be trialled for **six months**, with feedback used to review and improve it. Please share your feedback with rebecca.emery@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk.

Special thanks are given to all those that have contributed to this important project.