

HSPCF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

25th September 2026



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

1 PARENT CARER FORUM UPDATES



Thank you to everyone who joined us at our HSPCF & Halton Borough Council coffee morning yesterday. It was wonderful to have so many parents coming to share experiences and engage with professionals.

Parent Zoom – 1st of October 8pm-9pm

For parent carers who were unable to attend or would like to hear any updates again from 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 but the opportunity is available if you'd like to

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

Meeting ID - 82516408268

Password – 506737

Coffee Morning 1st of October 9.30-11.30 Coffee Morning – Bridgewater Park School Hub

Our next regular Parent Carer Forum coffee morning will take place at our Bridgewater Park School Hub, where we'll be joined by Gill Tyler the Designated Clinical Officer for SEND from NHS Cheshire and Merseyside. Gill works across health and SEND and will be joining us to speak with parent carers, share information and answer questions.

As always, our coffee mornings are informal and relaxed with plenty of opportunity to chat with other parent carers over a coffee and some biscuits! **No need to book – just come along**

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 7th & 9th OCT

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. We will be in attendance so please come and Say Hello!

Wednesday 7th October, 3–6pm

Brookvale Family Hub, Runcorn, WA7 6BJ

Friday 9th October, 9am–1pm

Ditton Family Hub, Widnes, WA8 8DF

More information via
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 has opened a new one-stop hub in the former Runcorn Library in the old town. Well Runcorn is 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. Email for more information at
ncm.wellruncornhub@nhs.net

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Cheshire and Merseyside
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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](#)

Soluna (Kooth)

Kooth has been rebranded as Soluna by Kooth, continuing to offer online mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people. Parent carers who would like to understand how the online service works, there is a demo version available to explore.

Parents can sign up to the demo as if they were a young person aged 10–25, allowing you to look around the platform and see what support and features are available before discussing/trying it with your child [Demo-web.solunaapp](#).

Soluna can be accessed through both a web version and an app.

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.



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info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



www.haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk



[HaltonSENDCarersforum](#)



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OTHER UPDATES



If you have information, events, services or opportunities that you think would be useful for other SEND families in Halton, please send them over to us.

Where appropriate, we'll include them in our upcoming weekly newsletters to help keep parent carers connected with what's happening locally.

Email: info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk

Positive Future Consultancy is a Widnes-based service offering a range of support for children and young people, including educational provision, emotional wellbeing and anger management, 1:1 tutoring, alternative education and AQA-accredited enrichment opportunities. Their offer includes support with functional skills and GCSE preparation, life skills and careers support, confidence and communication skills, emotional resilience, and creative workshops.

For more information, contact 0151 422 0111 or email info@positivefutureltd.co.uk

Halton Young Carers – Free Groups, Trips & Support

Halton Carers Centre has shared its latest Young Carers Newsletter with information about groups, activities and support available for young carers across Halton. Young carers groups run throughout the school term with additional trips and activities during half terms. All groups, trips and activities are completely free and are designed to give young carers a break from their caring role, reduce isolation and provide opportunities to make friends and try new activities.

Current youth clubs include:

- **Me Time – Runcorn:** every other Tuesday, for ages **4–10**
- **Me Time – Widnes:** every other Wednesday, for ages **4–10**
- **R Time – Runcorn:** every other Thursday, for ages **11–17**

Read the latest Young Carers Newsletter:

<https://tinyurl.com/HCCYCNewsletterSep26>

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info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



www.haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk



HaltonSENDCarersForum



Cheshire and Merseyside
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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 KOOTH

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!

*Get
Involved!*

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*

*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 



info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



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 240161

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.

soluna
by Kooth

IT'S A GREAT DAY
TO BECOME
THE PERSON YOU
WANT TO BE

Soluna is a **space to be you**. Get **free mental wellbeing support** when you need it – live **one-on-one text chats** with real professionals, **journalling**, and loads more.



Soluna is the free, safe, mental health app and website – made for you.

Scan the QR code to download or visit **SolunaByKooth.com**





Positive Future Consultancy

Empowering Learning and Personal Growth in Widnes.



Educational Provision

- ✓ Functional Skills & GCSE Preparation
- ✓ Life Skills and Careers Support
- ✓ Bespoke Alternative Education
- ✓ One-to-One & Group Tuition



Emotional Intelligence & Anger Management

- ♥ Bespoke Wellbeing Sessions
- ♥ Confidence & Communication Skills
- ♥ Emotional Resilience Development



CatchUp Education

- ★ 1-to-1 Tutoring in Maths, English, Science & More
- ★ Qualified & Experienced Tutors
- ★ GCSE & Functional Skills Support

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Join Us and Shape Your Future!



0151 4220111



info@positivefutureltd.co.uk



Hallmark House, Waterloo Road, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 0QR

www.positivefutureltd.co.uk



YOUTH CLUBS

for Young Carers

A safe space to have fun, make friends,
try new activities and just be you!

ME TIME Runcorn Every other Tuesday For primary age children aged 4-10 	ME TIME Widnes Every other Wednesday For primary age children aged 4-10 	R TIME Runcorn Every other Thursday For secondary children aged 11-17
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Make friends	Try new activities	Play games	Get support	Take a break
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HALTON CARERS CENTRE A Network Partner of CARERS TRUST

Halton Carers Centre is registered in England & Wales as a Registered Charity No. 1128480
Company Limited by Guarantee No. 0607888