

HSPCF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

4th September 2026



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

1 PARENT CARER FORUM

Parent Coffee Morning

Our first coffee morning back after the summer will take place on **Thursday 10th September at our Bridgewater Park School Hub from 9.30-11.30am**

We'll be joined by Rebecca Emery from the NHS who will be introducing the new SEND Hospital Passport that has been co-produced with a range of health professionals, alongside Halton and Warrington Parent Carer Forums.

It will be a chance to see the new passport, find out how it can be used and ask any questions and have a well deserved Cuppa!

Hummingbird Craft and pizza Night

Registration is now opened for those who would like to join us for our next Family Event on **Friday the 18th of September 5-7pm.**

It will be a relaxed evening of pizza, crafts and time together with other SEND families.

Places are limited, so please get in touch via email to book a place

Info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk

2 HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL UPDATES

HBC and Forum Coffee Events

These sessions give parent carers the opportunity to hear directly from the SEND team about changes and developments across Halton, ask questions and speak with the guest speakers; Ben Holmes and Kelly Carey

DCBL Halton Stadium 9.30-11.30
See Poster attached with dates.

SHINE Therapy Parent/Carer Training Programme

Commissioned by HBC this program covers a range of topics including sensory processing, visual support, intensive interaction, restrictive eating and mealtime challenges, toileting and social stories. Attendance can be booked via [Parent / Carer Training Programme 2026 - 2027 | Eventbrite](#)

Youth Provision Feedback

HBC is gathering feedback on youth activities funded through the Youth Grant. There are separate surveys for **parent carers** and for **children and young people** giving everyone the opportunity to share their experiences.

[Parent Carer Link](#)

[Child/ Young Person Link](#)

You are not alone - we're here for you 



info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



www.haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk



[HaltonSENDCarersforum](#)



Cheshire and Merseyside
Integrated Care Board

NHS / ICB UPDATES

4th September 2026



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](#)

School Flu Vaccinations – SEND Support & Resources

Mersey Care's School Immunisation Service has shared resources to help families prepare for this year's flu vaccination programme. This includes a **social story** (attached to newsletter) for those who may benefit from preparation or explanation of what to expect and how the nasal spray is given.

[Information for SEND Immunisations Link](#)

Halton - 0151 351 8805

[mcn-tr.schoolimmunisations@nhs.net](#)

Thrive online service directory

Thrive has been put in to help families, young people and professionals find local emotional health and wellbeing support across Runcorn and Widnes. The directory groups support into 4 differing levels of need.

View the directory and give feedback here before it's official launch:

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



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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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 



COFFEE MORNING

PARENT ADVICE, SUPPORT & CHECK-IN

Join us for our first coffee morning
back after the summer break.

We will be joined by **Rebecca Emery, Designated Clinical Officer** (Warrington and interim Halton) from Cheshire and Merseyside ICB

The passport has been co-produced with health professionals across the region, alongside Halton and Warrington Parent Carer Forums.

Come along to find out how it can be used and ask questions.



Everyone
welcome!




DATE

THURS 10 SEPT 2026



TIME

9.30-11.30



VENUE

**Bridgewater
Park School Hub**



GUEST

Rebecca Emery, Designated
Clinical Officer (Warrington
and interim Halton),
Cheshire and Merseyside ICB

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Halton SEND
Parent Carer's Forum

Your voice counts 



HUMMINGBIRD PIZZA & CRAFTS NIGHT

Relaxed evening for SEND families

Join us for a relaxed evening of pizza, crafts and time together with other SEND families.



Places are limited. Email
info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk
to book your place.



DATE
FRI 18 SEPT 2026



TIME
5.00-7.00PM



BOOKING
info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk

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HaltonSENDcarersforum



Cheshire and Merseyside
Integrated Care Board

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.haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk

www.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)



Flu: five reasons to have the vaccine



1. Protect yourself

The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect your family and friends

Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy.



For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Knowsley, Halton and St Helens Schools
0151 351 8805 mcn-tr.schoolimmunisations@nhs.net

