

HSPCF WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

2nd October 2026



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

1 PARENT CARER FORUM UPDATES



We have lots coming up for parent carers throughout October, so we wanted to bring everything together in one place. Our **October What's On poster** includes the latest coffee mornings, and opportunities for families to get involved, ask questions and connect with other parent carers.

Coffee Morning 8th of October 9.30-11.30 Bridgewater Park School Hub

For our next coffee morning we will be joined by **Cheryl from Gateway Community Alternative Provision**. Cheryl will be coming along to introduce families to Gateway, explain more about the provision and the work they do locally, and share information about the different opportunities and support they offer for children and young people.

Gateway also runs a **16+ Saturday provision** in Widnes, providing a safe and welcoming space for young people and adults with SEND to socialise, relax and spend time with friends. Activities include things such as films, gaming, bingo and social activities, with occasional small trips also offered. The coffee morning will be a chance for parent carers to hear more directly from Cheryl, find out who Gateway may be able to support and ask any questions they may have.

Coffee Morning 15th October 9.30-11.30 – Bridgewater Park School Hub

Our coffee morning on **15th October** will be a little different, as we won't have a guest speaker joining us. This gives parent carers a chance to simply come along, relax, have a drink and spend time with others who may be in a similar situation. There's no set agenda and no pressure to talk about anything in particular — it can just be a chance to have a chat, share experiences, ask other parent carers questions or enjoy some time with people who understand.

These more informal sessions can be a really valuable way to build connections, so if you know another parent carer who might benefit from meeting others, please do share the coffee morning details with them. New faces are always very welcome.

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 - NEXT WEEK

A reminder that Local Offer Live is taking place next week!

With a wide range of local services and organisations from across Health, Council Services, activity providers and more will be attending, giving families the opportunity to speak to teams directly and find out more about who they are, what they do and how they may be able to support children, young people and families in Halton.

It's a useful chance to ask questions, discover services you may not have come across before, and get a clearer picture of the support available locally all in one place. We'd really encourage families to come particularly if you are looking for information, support or just want to better understand what is available in Halton

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.

Preparing for Adulthood and Transition Team

Following our recent coffee morning, Dean Tierney has shared some useful information for families around Preparing for Adulthood and the support available locally. Halton is currently updating the Preparing for Adulthood section of the Local Offer and families can already access a range of practical guides covering areas such as independent living, banking, using a mobile phone and developing everyday life skills.

The information also includes details about Halton's Transition Team, who support young people as they move towards adulthood. Families can find out more about the team and access to an online referral form available.

Preparing for Adulthood – Independent Living:

<https://www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk/send-pfa-independent-living?smart=onboarding>

Transition Team referral form:

<https://halton.me/transition-referral-form/>

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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

Soluna by Kooth – parent and carer demo

Soluna by Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous mental health platform for children and young people. It launched September 26 as an upgraded version of the original Kooth service.

A temporary demo area is available for parents and carers, giving you the opportunity to explore the platform and see what your child or young person will experience when using the service. To try the demo:

- Visit the Soluna Demo Site, Enter a dummy date of birth between 10 and 25 years old, You can also link an email address if you would like to see how a full user account works.

Young people can access Soluna through the website, while the downloadable mobile app is available for those aged 13 and over. Parent/carers demo:

<https://demo-web.solunaapp.com/>

Soluna website: solunaapp.com

Warrington & Halton SEND Health and Hospital Passport

The new Passport has now launched, helping health professionals better understand and provide the right support when children, young people and adults with SEND access health services.

The passport has been co-produced with parent carers and health professionals and is designed to give families and individuals a simple way to share important information about their needs. This can include things such as communication preferences, sensory needs, how someone shows pain or distress, and the support that helps them feel safe and understood. The aim is to make healthcare experiences safer, easier and more person-centred.

While we wait for a download link, anyone who would like a fully editable copy of the Health and Hospital Passport can get in touch with the forum and we can email a copy directly to you.



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 



info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk



www.haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk



[HaltonSENDCarersforum](https://www.facebook.com/HaltonSENDCarersforum)



Cheshire and Merseyside
Integrated Care Board



OTHER UPDATES

Any events/ service suggestions please share with us
info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk

SEND-friendly events and Home Ed groups at The New Albion

Stella at The New Albion in Widnes has been in touch with the forum to let families know about some new SEND-friendly events and regular home education groups they are running.

The pub is keen to create events that feel welcoming, manageable and less overwhelming for children and young people with SEND. Upcoming plans include:

SEND Halloween Party – Sunday 1st November, 3–5pm

SEND Supper with Santa – 22nd December, 5–6pm, including supper, hot chocolate, Christmas story time, a letter to Santa, a visit to Santa and a small gift

Places for the SEND events will be limited and bookings will be taken to help keep numbers manageable

Contact Stella - info@newalbionwidnes.com

The **Home ED** groups are open to families who home educate, or are considering it, and offer a relaxed space to meet other families, share ideas and access books, games, crafts and pool tables.

Primary & Reception age: Wednesdays, 1–3pm

Secondary age: Thursdays, 1–3pm

Venue: The New Albion, 1 Liverpool Road, Widnes, WA8 7AR

Halton Young Carers

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.

Dawnstar Gaming – Culture 26 Finale

Dawnstar Gaming CIC has shared details of the finale of its Made in Halton, Forged in Adventure project. The event will feature a live Dungeons & Dragons adventure with collaborative storytelling, performance and audience participation.

Thursday 22nd October – 6pm
The Brindley Studio, Runcorn

Dawnstar works to make tabletop gaming welcoming and accessible, including for neurodivergent young people and people with additional needs.

[Inclusive Gaming Sessions for all in Halton |](#)

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





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 KOOH

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

WHAT'S ON OCTOBER 2026

Events, support and opportunities
for SEND families in Halton



**1
OCT**
9.30–11.30AM

PARENTS AND CARERS SUPPORT - COFFEE MORNING

Bridgewater Park, WA7 2LW

With Gill Tyler, Designated Clinical Officer (DCO)
Come along for a brew, a chat and support from
Gill. Ask questions and meet other parent carers.



**8
OCT**
9.30–11.30AM

PARENTS AND CARERS SUPPORT - COFFEE MORNING

Bridgewater Park, WA7 2LW

With Cheryl from Gateway Community
Alternative Provision
Come along to hear from Cheryl, ask questions
and chat with other parent carers.



**15
OCT**
9.30–11.30AM

PARENTS AND CARERS SUPPORT - COFFEE MORNING

Bridgewater Park, WA7 2LW

No guest
Come along for a brew, a chat and support from
other parent carers.



**22
OCT**
9.30–11.30AM

PARENTS AND CARERS SUPPORT - COFFEE MORNING

Halton DCBL Stadium

With Ben Holmes
Director of Education, Inclusion and Provision
Come along to hear from Ben, ask questions,
share your views and chat with other parent carers.



**24
OCT**

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* 



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



Halton Borough Council Transition Team

Preparing for adulthood.

Transition is a process or period of change. Our dedicated team is committed to supporting children and young people with moderate/severe learning disabilities and/or physical/sensory disabilities through their journey from Children and Family Services to Adult Social Care.

Referrals to the transition team can be made through the contact centre on **0151 9078306** (adult) and **0151 9078305** (children).

For more information:

www.localoffer.haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk

Transition.Team@halton.gov.uk





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.



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**





Gateway Community

NEW 16+ SATURDAY PROVISION

Launching 6th June • Every Saturday • 10:30am - 1:30pm

A Fun, Safe & Welcoming Space for young people and adults (16+)
with **SEN** needs to socialise, relax,
and enjoy time with friends.



Films



Disco



Bingo



Gaming



Gaming



Lunch



Tuckshop

Occasional small trips out to broaden experiences and build confidence.

• Accessible for All • Activities can be accessed privately or through Direct Payments.

Want to Know More? Contact Us!



0151 422 0111



gatewayc2017@outlook.com



Hallmark House, Waterloo Rd, Widnes WA8 0QR



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
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- Over 2,000 AQA Units Available
- Skills-Based Accredited Learning



Join Us and Shape Your Future!



0151 4220111



info@positivefutureltd.co.uk



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

www.positivefutureltd.co.uk

SEND Supper with Santa



5 - 6 p m
22nd
December

Includes supper & hot chocolate
Christmas storytime & letter to Santa
See Santa & his elf in his grotto
photo with Santa
Gift for every child



£10 per child
book early to avoid
disappointment as numbers are
limited

christmas pjs & cosy blankets
welcome

SEND HALLOWEEN PARTY

Sunday 1st
November 2026

**At The New
Albion, Widnes**

3.5 p m





Join us for our
weekly

**Home
Education
group
primary &
reception**

Relax, chat, meet other families & share
ideas and resources whilst the kids get
creative 🍷🖍️



Open to all home education families
or those considering it

Venue: The new Albion, Widnes
1 Liverpool Road, Widnes WA87AR
Every Wednesday 1-3pm





Join us for our
weekly

Home Education group: Secondary

Relax, chat, meet other families & share
ideas. Games, darts and pool table
available for the kids



Open to all home education families
or those considering it

Venue: The new Albion, Widnes
1 Liverpool Road, Widnes WA87AR
Every Thursday 1-3pm



food & drink available to purchase



THE LIVE SHOW

MADE IN HALTON, FORGED IN ADVENTURE

A LIVE DUNGEONS & DRAGONS FINALE

Six stories. Six Relic-Notes. One final gathering.

The journey across Halton has led here. On 22 October, six players bring the story to the stage for one final adventure — but the ending will not belong to them alone.

THE AUDIENCE BECOMES PART OF THE STORY.



THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2026 · 6:00 PM

APPROX 3 HOURS EVENT LENGTH

THE BRINDLEY STUDIO · RUNCORN

LIVE STORYTELLING · TABLETOP ROLEPLAY · AUDIENCE
PARTICIPATION



SCAN TO BOOK
TICKETS VIA QUAYTICKETS

Dawnstar Gaming CIC
COMMUNITY STORYTELLING THROUGH TABLETOP
GAMING

Part of **Culture 26: Made in Halton**
Supported through the Culture 26 Aspire programme