



## Short Breaks Service



### For Children with Disabilities

#### Newsletter w/c 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023

This newsletter contains events and updates from various services around Halton, as well as other general information which you may find useful. You can find out more information on the [Halton Local Offer page online](#) or contact the [Short Breaks Service for Children with Disabilities](#) team too.

### Share your lived experience of SEND in Halton

#### Halton Local Offer



Halton SEND and Inclusion Service are running 3 surveys during September and October relating to SEND Support Services across the Local Authority. The surveys will help the team to better understand the lived experience of SEND in Halton, allowing them to shape and improve future services.

They want to hear as many voices as possible, and the closing date is **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023**.

#### Who are the surveys for?

- Parents and Carers of any child with SEND in Halton;
- Children and young people with SEND in Halton;
- Colleagues in Schools and Educational Settings in Halton.

#### What are the benefits for completing the surveys?

In December 2023, the service will be submitting an application for a grant to improve the SEND system in Halton. By participating in this survey you will help to provide the SEND and Inclusion Service with a clear picture of your thoughts about the effectiveness of the SEND support children and young people receive in Halton.

Your information will tell them what is currently working and what areas may need improvement. The more feedback they receive – good or bad – the greater our prospects of improving services in the future.

This is your opportunity to help shape future SEND provision in Halton and the SEND and Inclusion Service would be very grateful for your assistance in completing the surveys. Thank you for your support!

Survey links:

- [Parent and Carers survey](#)
- [Children and Young People survey](#)
- [Schools and Educational settings survey](#)

## Halton SEND Parent Carer's Forum – September events and activities



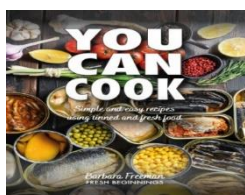
Halton SEND Parent Carer's Forum has lots of events planned throughout September including their **calm and connected coffee morning on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 11.30am-1.30pm** at the Community Shop in Runcorn, and the latest **parent drop in session on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 9.30am-11.30am** at St. Bede's Junior School in Widnes.

The Forum also has their online Zoom parent information workshops planned throughout September:

- **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 7.30pm Autism and ARFID (Avoidant restrictive food intake disorder)** – join Emma Eager from The Autism Wellbeing Project who will share her in depth knowledge of autism and ARFID and the challenges that can bring to young people with autism and their parents, and give parents and carers an insight on how best to support through the challenging times.
  - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87076897797?pwd=ZVV3cHZLbIpMNHc1RGZwak9ncnBpUT09>
  - Meeting ID: 870 7689 7797 Passcode: 627915
- **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm Halton SENDIASS Service overview with Sharon English.** SENDIASS provides impartial and confidential information and support for parents of children with SEND. They can also work directly with young people with SEND aged 16 to 25 to offer them support. This workshop is a very informative and informal way to ask your questions to the professionals and seek support easily.
  - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912769782?pwd=bmVNCeEwWUIES09TZXR0bXhV3ArZz09>
  - Meeting ID: 859 1276 9782 Passcode: 613917

If you are not a member of the Forum and want to join any of these zoom workshops, just email Jen on [info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk](mailto:info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk) for a membership form.

They also have free family dinner and cooking sessions starting in October. Learn how to cook a family dinner from scratch in the comfort of your own home with all your family for **FREE**. Plus, the ingredients will be delivered to your front door!



And as a thank you from Halton Send Parent Carers Forum for making a lovely family dinner, they will give you a **FREE** copy of Barbara Freeman's newly published cookbook, "YOU CAN COOK". See below for all the dates and information to book your places!

Date	Event	Time	Venue	Information
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Forum reopens after summer	9.30am - 1.30pm		The forum reopens after summer.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Dave Wilson -Healthwatch Halton Zoom	7.30pm -8.30pm	Zoom	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85999528028?pwd=L1Jud1VDI3dG1lbnFhUWlrdk1HQT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85999528028?pwd=L1Jud1VDI3dG1lbnFhUWlrdk1HQT09</a> Meeting ID: 859 9952 8028 Passcode: 818122
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Coffee, Cake and 'Check in'	11.30am-1.30pm	Community Shop, Priory House, Northway, WA7 2FS	We would love to welcome our parents back after a long summer break! Come have a drink and chat, get some advice and support from other parents in the same boat!
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Autism and ARFID Parent Training Workshop Delivered by – The Autism Wellbeing Project	7.30pm-8.30pm	ONLINE (Zoom)	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87076897797?pwd=ZVV3cHZlbnpMNHc1RGZwak9ncnBpUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87076897797?pwd=ZVV3cHZlbnpMNHc1RGZwak9ncnBpUT09</a> Meeting ID: 870 7689 7797 Passcode: 627915
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Hummingbird Art session, with Pizza.	5pm -7pm	Hummingbird Art Studio The Village Hall, 12 Main St, Halton, Runcorn WA7 2AN	Bookable event – <b>Fully booked.</b>
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Drop-In Session	9.30am-11.30am	St Bede's Junior School, 16 Appleton Village, Widnes WA8 6EL	A chance to register with the forum, gain support, advice, and signposting in your child's own school. Meet other parents in your child's school experiencing the same issues.
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	SENDIASS Overview – Sharon English	7.30pm – 8.30pm	ONLINE (Zoom)	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912769782?pwd=bmVncEwWUjES09TZXR0bXHV3ArZz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912769782?pwd=bmVncEwWUjES09TZXR0bXHV3ArZz09</a> Meeting ID: 859 1276 9782 Passcode: 613917

# Halton SEND Parent Carer's Forum



## **FREE FAMILY DINNER/COOKING SESSIONS**

**4<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – 5.30pm to 7pm – Six Spaces**

**15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 5.30pm to 7pm – Six Spces**

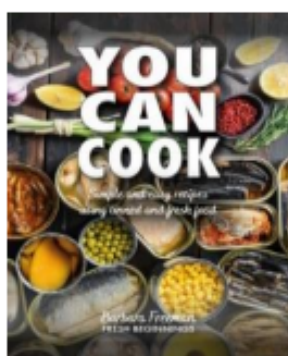
**17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – 5.30pm to 7pm – Six Spaces**

**8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – 5.30pm to 7pm – Six Spaces**

**28<sup>th</sup> February & 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 – 5.30pm to 7pm – Six Spaces**

**(YOU MUST COMPLETE BOTH SESSIONS)**

Learn how to cook a FAMILY dinner from scratch in the comfort of your own home with all your family for **FREE**. The ingredients will be delivered to your front door.



As a Thank you from Halton Send Parent Carers Forum for making a lovely family dinner, we will give you a **FREE** copy of "Barbara Freemans" newly published cookbook, "YOU CAN COOK".



Places need to be booked in advance for this event don't leave it get your place confirmed now by emailing Jen - [info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk](mailto:info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk)

### **To Join Our members only Virtual Cooking sessions:**

All you need is a smart phone or laptop/computer with speakers, microphone and ideally a camera.



Halton Send Parent Carers Forum

Telephone Contact: 07784240161

contact

[WWW.Haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk](http://WWW.Haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk)

Email: [info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk](mailto:info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk)

## **SEND R US Drum-A-Long**



# **Drum-A-Long**

**Have some fun and have a Drum**

**Wednesday 20th September**

**5.30pm-6.30pm**

**For individuals and families living in Halton with SEND**

**Refreshments  
provided**

**Ashley High School  
Widnes  
WA8 7HG**

**Message us via Facebook at SEND R US CIC  
to book your place as spaces are limited**



**All children must be accompanied by a  
parent or carer**



SEND R US are running their popular Drum-A-Long session this Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 5.30pm-6.30pm at Ashley High School, Widnes.

Message the team to book your places through [their Facebook page here](#), or email [sendrus@mail.com](mailto:sendrus@mail.com).

## Dyslexia Awareness at Widnes Library

**DYSLEXIA**

**Awareness at Widnes Library**  
Tuesday 3rd October, 10am-11:30am

Please join us at Widnes Library as part of Dyslexia Awareness Week to learn about dyslexia and what support is available from the library. We'll also be joined by a volunteer from the Cheshire and North Wales Dyslexia Association who will share their experiences and provide some coping strategies.

This free event is a chance for professionals, adults and those simply with an interest to come together in a friendly and informal setting to chat, learn and to share experiences. Refreshments and biscuits will also be provided.

Please book via Eventbrite.  
For more information, please contact  
Izzy Ashley via  
[isobel.ashley@halton.gov.uk](mailto:isobel.ashley@halton.gov.uk) or phone  
0151 511 5314

**Dyslexia Awareness Week**  
Celebrate being Uniquely You  
#DAW23

As part of Dyslexia Awareness Week in October, Halton Libraries are hosting a special session on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 10am-11.30am open to all members of the public, to discuss and learn about all aspects of dyslexia. They will be joined by a member of the Cheshire and North Wales Dyslexia Association who will provide personal experience of living with dyslexia, discuss possible coping strategies and you can also hear about what support can be provided for you at the library.

Book your free place [online via Eventbrite](#) or at any Halton library, and for more information, please contact Izzy Ashley via [isobel.ashley@halton.gov.uk](mailto:isobel.ashley@halton.gov.uk) or phone 0151 511 5314. You can also check out the [Halton Libraries website here](#).

## Vibe Outdoors Club – October activities

**Paddlesports** Junior Club  
**vibe outdoors**

Transport Provided

Age 8-11

FREE

Monday 30th  
October 2023  
9:30am -  
12:30pm

Half term date

**LIMITED SPACES!**

**Collection Points:**

**Runcorn:** Old Police Station,  
Mersey Road, WA7 1DF

**Widnes:** McDonalds Car Park,  
Moor Lane, WA8 7AP

Halton Council funded, monthly Outdoor Activity focused Junior Youth Club (8-11) for SEND young people in Halton

Register now by clicking the link or scanning the QR code:

**BOOK HERE**

**vibeuk.org**

disability confident COMMITTED

HALTON COUNCIL

HALTON HIGH SCHOOL

vibe

AALA

This month the Vibe Outdoors Juniors and Seniors Club will be Paddlesports on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October**. The Juniors session will run 9.30am to 12.30pm with the Seniors in the afternoon 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

As always, the pick-up points will be at the Old Police station in Mersey Road Runcorn, and at McDonalds Moor Lane Widnes.

To register scan the QR codes in the posters or [click here for the Juniors session](#) and [click here for the Seniors](#).



**Paddlesports** Senior Club  
**vibe** outdoors

Monday 30th  
October 2023  
1:30pm -  
4:30pm

Age  
12-17

Transport  
Provided

**FREE**

**LIMITED SPACES!**

**Collection Points:**

**Runcorn:** Old Police Station,  
Mersey Road, WA7 1DF

**Widnes:** McDonalds Car Park,  
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Halton Council funded, monthly Outdoor  
Activity focused Senior Youth Club (12-17) for  
SEND young people in Halton

Register now by clicking the  
link or scanning the QR code:

**BOOK  
HERE**



**disability  
confident**  
COMMITTED

[vibeuk.org](http://vibeuk.org)

HALTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

HALTON  
HIGH  
SCHOOL

**vibe**

AALA



## Mako Create's Halloween themed sessions

**HALTON SHORT BREAKS**

# HALLOWEEN PAPER CIRCUITS

**FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN HALTON (AGED 8-17)  
WITH A DISABILITY/ ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

HALTON  
AIMING  
HIGH  
FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Mako  
CREATE

HALTON  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Join the team at [Mako Create](#) for a FREE Halton Short Breaks Halloween paper circuits session on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 11am-1pm** at Halton Lea library, Runcorn.

During this two-hour session young people will combine arts, crafting and digital technology to create their own spooky paper torch, which will light up at the touch of a button

Sound like something you or someone you know might be interested in? Check out [the link here](#) to sign up.

*These short break sessions are funded specifically for young people in Halton with additional needs.*

## Half-term sessions with Play By Nature



**Play By Nature**  
  
**Forest School**  
Cheryl Bennett    07985232429



Play By Nature Forest School have released places for their half-term sessions, **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 9am-3pm**. The cost is £20 per child per session.

Contact Cheryl Bennett on **07985 232429** or [visit the Facebook page](#) for more information.

## Accessing Short Breaks information on the Halton Local Offer

Halton Local Offer



Don't forget you can access our Short Breaks page on the Local Offer by scanning this QR code here or [click this link](#).



Here you'll find lots of useful information and resources, while [the Leisure page here](#) has details of activities and events across Widnes and Runcorn

And your feedback and suggestions help us to keep improving the Halton Local Offer for families across our borough – [click here to share your feedback!](#)

### MAX cards



The summer holidays may be over for another year but don't forget that Max Cards are available for our families in Halton all year round.

The card is designed to help families save money on great days out at castles, zoos, bowling alleys and more.

You can visit the [MAX Card website](#) for further details or check out [the Local Offer](#). Cards cost £2.50 and can be collected from Warrington Road Children's Centre in Widnes, or Glendale Family Centre in Runcorn (available Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm – please note, it is cash payments only).

You can email [AimingHigh.forDisabledChildren@halton.gov.uk](mailto:AimingHigh.forDisabledChildren@halton.gov.uk) or call 0151 511 6560 for more details.

This newsletter provides general information and resources for parents and carers of young people with SEND, and for professionals who support them. Please note, while we take every care to ensure the information we share is accurate the information provided is not a direct recommendation from the Short Breaks Service and we recommend that you complete your own research about the information and events we signpost.

We recognise that not all the information in this newsletter will be relevant to everyone included on the mailing list. If there is some specific information you would

like to see more of, or information from a certain service that you'd like to share please let me know and I will try to include next time. If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please let me know.

**[Julie.Pennington@halton.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.Pennington@halton.gov.uk)**

Short Breaks Service for Children with Disabilities Halton Borough Council

Tel: 0151 511 6560

Email: **[AimingHigh.forDisabledChildren@halton.gov.uk](mailto:AimingHigh.forDisabledChildren@halton.gov.uk)**