



Short Breaks Service



For Children with Disabilities

Newsletter w/c 13th November 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.

Area SEND inspection for Halton Local Area Partnership – surveys close tomorrow

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are visiting our area to inspect the local arrangements for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

The inspectors want to know about the help and support that children and young people with SEND get. You can tell us by filling in a survey below. Your answers are confidential.

The surveys will close at 9am on Tuesday 14th November 2023 – don't miss your chance to have your say.

- [Take the children and young people survey here.](#)
- [Take the parent and carer survey here.](#)
- [Take the parent and carer survey \(Easy Read version\) here.](#)

There is also a survey for practitioners working with children and young people with SEND in education, health or care services – [click here to access this survey.](#)

You can also [visit the Halton Local Offer page here](#) for more information.



Area SEND inspection for Halton Local Area Partnership

Hello

[Ofsted](#) and the [Care Quality Commission \(CQC\)](#) are visiting your area to inspect the local arrangements for children and young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND).

The inspectors want to know about the help and support that children and young people with SEND get. You can tell us by filling in a survey below. Your answers are confidential.

The surveys will close at 9am on 14 November 2023.



Children and young people

If you are a young person with SEND please fill in this survey.

[Take the children and young people survey.](#)



Parents and carers

If you are a parent or carer of a child or young person with SEND please complete this survey. If you have more than one child with SEND you can use the same link to complete a separate survey for each child.

[Take the parent and carer survey.](#)

[Take the parent and carer survey \(Easy Read version\)](#)

Halton SEND Parent Carer's Forum – November events and activities



Halton SEND Parent Carer's Forum has lots of events and activities planned throughout November including their **school parent drop in sessions on Wednesday 15th November** at Bridgewater Park Primary, Runcorn, and **Wednesday 22nd November** at St. Berteline's Primary, Runcorn. Both sessions are from 9.30am-11.30am

And don't forget the **Information and Support Surgery on Saturday 18th November**, 12pm-3pm at Moon Meadow scout hut, Widnes. Parents and carers can come and speak to all the SEND Local Authority and Woodview departments for advice. There will be crafts, bubbles, raffles, and Hot Dogs for all the kids - it really will be a family day out!

The next session of the **SYNC Youth Club** for young people with SEND living in Halton aged 10-18 is on **Sunday 26th November 12pm-5pm** at Moon Meadow Scout Hut Widnes. Activities include board games, arts and crafts, lego and soft ball multi sports, or simply come along and chill – food and drink is supplied. Space are limited so please email inclusiviteeuk@gmail.com to book your places.

They also have their latest online Zoom parent information workshops:

- **Thursday 16th November 7.30pm Vulnerable Beneficiary – Wills & Inheritance Parent Training Webinar.**
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81298593408?pwd=SmwrakFjYnk2amhvOWk1b1BPeEo2UT09>
 - Meeting ID: 812 9859 3408 Passcode: 741224

- **Thursday 23rd November 7.30pm Halton's Short Breaks Service for Children with Disabilities – with Claire Gurney Halton's SEND Commissioner.**
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82577196545?pwd=UGxWZEI1aIZGeXp1U0Y5cW9iaE9rZz09>
 - Meeting ID: 825 7719 6545 Passcode: 885955

If you are not a member of the Forum and want to join their zoom workshops, just email Jen on info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk for a membership form.



What's on in November 2023



Date	Event	Time	Venue	Information
15/11/23	School Parent Drop in Session	9.30am-11.30am	Bridgewater Park Primary School, Plantation Close, Castlefields, WA7 2LW	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. Have discussions with school SENCO's and staff.
15/11/2023	Family cooking session	5.30pm – 7pm	Zoom	Fully Booked – email info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk to book onto available sessions.
16/11/23	Vulnerable Beneficiary – Wills & Inheritance Parent Training Webinar	7.30pm-8.30pm	ONLINE (Zoom)	The Webinar covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of having the right Will • How to protect wealth to maximise inheritance • How to avoid disinheritance threats • How to protect your loved ones in the long term • How to avoid loss of means tested benefits • Common pitfalls: what you should NOT do. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81298593408?pwd=SmwrakFjYnk2amhvOWk1b1BPeEo2UT09 Meeting ID: 812 9859 3408 Passcode: 741224
18/11/23	Information and Support Surgery	12 Noon – 3.00pm	Moon Meadow Scout Hut, Farnworth Street, Widnes, WA8 9LH	This is a main Information and Advice Surgery where parents and carers can come and speak to all SEND LA and Woodview departments for advice. There will be crafts, bubbles, raffles, and Hot Dogs for all the kids it really will be a family day out.
22/11/23	School Parent Drop in Session	9.30am-11.30am	St Bertelines C of E Primary School, Norton Lane, Runcorn, WA7 6QN	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. Have discussions with school SENCO's and staff.
23/11/23	Halton Short Breaks Service for children with disabilities	7.30pm – 8.30pm	Zoom	Claire Gurney the SEND commissioner for Halton will be discussing their service and how to access it in Halton. Claire will be discussing what works well, what doesn't and what you as parent carers would like to see. This is your chance to give your input. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82577196545?pwd=UGxWZEl1alZGeXp1U0Y5cW9iaE9rZz09 Meeting ID: 825 7719 6545 Passcode: 885955



What's on in November 2023



Date	Event	Time	Venue	Information
25/11/2023	HSPCF SYNC youth club, 10-18 years.	12.00pm - 5.00pm	Moonmeadow, Scout Hut, Farnworth, WA8 9LH	This is a FREE SEND event – and must be booked via email and a place confirmed. Infosync22@gmail.com
30/11/2023	Brunch Club for Parents & Carers	11.00am – 1.00pm	Space Runcorn, Regent Street, Runcorn, WA7 1LJ	Come and join the HSPCF team, register with us and meet other parents on a similar journey. Learn from each other and each other's experiences. Gain knowledge to empower you on your journey.
30/11/2023	Dennis Dewar – Zoom – awaiting information	7.30pm – 8.30pm	Zoom	Dennis's role involves working with volunteers within the Trust and engaging with local community groups. Currently the engagement work is focusing on our community mental health services which are about to go through a transformation process. He would be interested in discussing with our parent carers how Mersey Care can better engage and involve local communities in this work. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82973613116?pwd=NzUwVmZXN01UZDF2ZDBQUGFJRDNmUT09 Meeting ID: 829 7361 3116 Passcode: 330426

Halton SEND Parent Carer's Forum



INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SURGERY **SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2023**

(12.00 noon to 15.00pm) - 12 to 3

Moon Meadow Scout Hut, 21 Farnworth Street, Widnes, WA8 9LH

Tourette's action - Halton 0-19 Service (School Nurses) - Independent Travel Training - SENDIASS - 14-19 Team

Positive Future Consultancy Ltd - Designated Clinical Officers Halton - Halton Local Offer

Halton Family Hubs - SEND assessment team - Cheshire Autism Practical Support

Head of Special Educational Needs Merseyside - Holiday activity and food provision team

- Educational Psychology Service Halton - Integrated Care Board (ICB) - Halton Virtual School

Childrens Specialist Services Halton (Woodview) - Children's Neuro-Developmental Team Halton

Advanced solutions - Healthwatch Halton - Community Dental Network - Citizen's advice Halton

Mental Health Support Team in Schools - Deafness Resource Centre/Halton sensory services

Child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) - Positive Behaviour Support Service Halton


If you need any general support and advice from these services, then come along and meet the teams!

We have lots of activities to keep the children entertained.

Raffle Prizes – Craft Table – Food and Refreshments – Sammy Sunshine



Halton SEND Parents carers forum believes that informed parents are empowered parents, and our aim is to ensure that services in Halton meet the needs of disabled children and their families.

 Halton Send parent Carers Forum

WWW.Haltonsendcarersforum.org.uk

Telephone Contact: 07889721234

Email : info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk





INCLUSIVITEE CIC

SYNC SEND YOUTH NEEDS CLUB



FREE

**Sunday 26th
November 2023**

12PM - 5PM

**AGE
10-18**

YOUTH CLUB DROP IN SESSION

FOR THOSE WITH SEND LIVING IN HALTON

INCLUDING BOARD GAMES, ARTS AND CRAFTS, LEGO AND SOFT BALL MULTI SPORTS OR COME ALONG AND CHILL

(Food and drink supplied)

AT MOON MEADOW SCOUT HUT, FARNWORTH STREET, WIDNES, WA8 9LH

Spaces are limited so please email: inclusiviteeuk@gmail.com to register for a place

email: inclusiviteeuk@gmail.com



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Mako Create's 'Code A Drone' sessions



Join Mako Create for a unique holiday workshop where young coding enthusiasts aged 10-16 will explore the world of coding while creating captivating Christmas lights and delightful musical melodies. In this session, participants will craft their own Christmas jingle and code their own Christmas light display!

Their free monthly Coding Club is a fun and supportive place for young people from Halton to get together to enjoy learning coding skills, completing challenges, and meet new people.

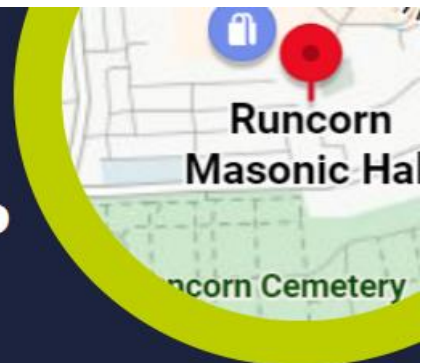
- **Thursday 7th December 4pm-6pm – Widnes Library. [Click here to book.](#)**
- **Thursday 14th December 4.30pm-6.30pm at Grangeway Community Centre. [Click here to book.](#)**

Tourette's Workshop for parents with Halton Carers Centre

Tourettes
action



HALTON CARERS CENTRE A Network Partner of
CARERS TRUST



TOURETTE'S WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2024

 [Runcorn Masonic Hall](#), York St, Runcorn, WA7 5BB

Following this day long workshop you will leave equipped with the knowledge of how to support those with TS better. You will have a thorough understanding on how Tourette Syndrome affects those with the condition and the hidden barriers they face daily. You will leave the day feeling empowered in the knowledge that you will be using tested strategies that actually work.

OUR SPEAKERS



EMMA MYERS
TA EVENTS MANAGER

Emma is the Tourettes Action Events Organiser, planning the TICfest, TEENfest and adult weekends as well as workshops and webinars. Emma joined TA in 2012 and has a daughter with TS.



IONE GEORGAKIS
THERAPIES AND ADVOCACY
MANAGER

Ione is an Occupational Therapist who works part-time for Tourettes Action. Using her professional and lived experience, Ione develops and leads our evidence-based, online and face to face training programmes and workshops. Ione provides advocacy and clinical consultations to professionals, employers, and individuals with TS.



KATIE SKINNER
SPECIALIST TEACHER

Katie has experience supporting pupils with communication, interaction, social, emotional and mental health difficulties to develop appropriate emotional regulation, friendship and executive function skills in both specialist and mainstream settings, at primary and secondary level. Katie is also a Sleep Scotland Sleep Counsellor and holds an NPQ in Senior Leadership.



DR. ED PALMER
JUNIOR DOCTOR & TA TRUSTEE

Dr Edward Palmer is a trainee Psychiatrist and researcher at the University of Birmingham. He has had symptoms of TS since early childhood, but was only diagnosed with the condition in his teens. It was at this point we came into contact with Tourettes Action and became aware of the amazing work they do and support they provide.

ORDER OF THE DAY

CHECK-IN / WELCOME & HOUSE KEEPING

9:30am/ 9:45am - 10am - Emma Myers

AN INTRO TO TICS & TOURETTE SYNDROME

10am - 11am - Dr Ed Palmer

BREAK

11am - 11:15am

EMOTIONAL REGULATION

11:15am - 12:15pm - Katy Skinner

LUNCH

12:15pm - 1pm

PAIN AND TOURETTE SYNDROME

1pm - 1:45pm - Ione Georgakis

BREAK

1:45pm - 2pm

SENSORY DIFFERENCES IN INDIVIDUALS WITH TICS AND TOURETTE'S

2pm - 3pm - Ione Georgakis

SLEEP AND TOURETTE SYNDROME

3pm - 4pm - Katy Skinner

Q&A WITH THE SPEAKERS

4pm - 4:30pm

www.tourettes-action.org.uk

BOOK A PLACE



INTRO TO TS AND CO-OCCURRING CONDITIONS

DR ED PALMER

An introduction to tics and Tourette's syndrome. This session will give an overview of Tourette's and other tics disorders.

SENSORY DIFFERENCES IN INDIVIDUALS WITH TICS AND TOURETTES

IONE GEORGAKIS

In this session Ione will explore the sensory systems, how these can impact those with TS. She will discuss and share strategies on how to manage and regulate the sensory system, giving examples of sensory diets, to enable people to create their own.

EMOTIONAL REGULATION

KATIE SKINNER

Emotional regulation is a skill that can be tricky to master and can lead to challenges with social and academic engagement. In this session Katie will explore how we can support young people who have difficulties with managing demand and regulating and their feelings and consider what practical approaches we can use as to directly teach these skills for a calmer and happier family life.

PAIN AND TOURETTE SYNDROME

IONE GEORGAKIS

Pain and Tourette Syndrome - Research indicates that 99% of people with Tourettes report pain as consequence of tics. This session will explore the causes of pain and injury in Tourettes, the day-to-day impact and possible treatment approaches.

SLEEP AND TOURETTE SYNDROME

KATIE SKINNER

Katie will explore the causes and consequences of common sleep difficulties for young people with Tourette Syndrome, the science behind sleep and how we can use this knowledge to develop practical, realistic strategies to help our children (and us!) to get a better night's rest.

You enquired, the team at Halton Carers Centre listened, and took action.

Over the past year, they have noticed an increase in enquiries from Carers regarding Tourette's and Tics. They are excited to announce our exclusive collaboration with Tourette's Action to present a full-day workshop on Tourette's and Tics scheduled for February 2024.

Following this comprehensive workshop, you'll gain a deeper understanding of Tourette's and tics, as well as insights into the daily challenges faced by individuals. This knowledge will empower you with the confidence to implement proven and effective strategies.

Stay tuned to their social media and emails in the coming days for more details on not only this workshop but some continued professional development opportunities for professionals working with your child.

You can show your interest in this workshop by completing [this link here](#) or scanning the QR code



You can show your interest in this workshop by completing [this link here](#) or scanning the QR code

If you are not registered with Halton Carers Centre you can complete the following links or **call them on 01928 580182**.

- [Self-Referral Adults](#)
- [Self-referral Young Carer](#)

Cost of living information and support in Halton



As part of helping people in Halton access any available Cost of Living support this winter, Halton Borough Council have been updating their online Cost of Living hub.

The page breaks down the support available from local and national schemes for everything from emergency fuel payments to help checking your benefit eligibility to maximise your income.

[Click here to view the Hub](#), and you can find more information and useful contact details in the leaflet attached to this email.

Toy Sale at Palacefields Community Centre
Runcorn this Saturday

Palace Fields Community Centre
The Uplands, WA7 2UA

TOY SALE

(1/2 PRICE OR LESS!)

SATURDAY
18th
November

Open 10am
to 12pm

Another community initiative brought to you by Four Estates, your local charity - No 1090795

The Four Estates charity is holding a ½ price or less toy sale this **Saturday, 18th November** from 10am-12pm at **Palacefields Community Centre**, The Uplands, Runcorn. A perfect opportunity to grab a bargain ready for Christmas! Check out [their Facebook page here](#) for more information and to find out more about their events and activities in Runcorn.

SEN session at The Ice Cream Farm



The Ice Cream Farm Cheshire are holding their latest **SEN session on Sunday 26th November** from 9am-11.30am – find out more about the Ice Cream Farm and it's attractions [here](#), and you can [book your tickets here](#).

Don't forget to join in Halton's 'Big Conversation'

“THE BIG CONVERSATION”

The Big Conversation is about all of us being a part of shaping what the future of Halton looks like.

It's about starting to talk about how, together, we can make Halton an even better place for people to live, work, visit and grow. It includes discussing what Halton Borough Council could do with the money that it has available, what we can do together as a community and what each of us may be able to do in our day to day lives, to make a difference.

Council Leader Cllr Mike Wharton says: “Let your voice be heard by taking part in our survey. Input from local people is crucial to help shape future policies and decisions. Your involvement will help us improve, and build brighter futures for our community.”

Get involved today – complete the survey **before Thursday 30th November** to be in with a chance of winning a £100 gift voucher for The Brindley.

You can click here to find out more about The Big Conversation here, and you can complete the survey by clicking this link here or scan the QR code.



If you would like some help in completing the survey, please pop into any Halton Direct Link office, or one of Halton's libraries, where staff will be happy to provide assistance.

And Halton Borough Council also want to know **what children and young people** think of the place where they live too. Please help them to complete a **shorter version of the survey available by clicking this link here.**

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

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 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

Short Breaks Service for Children with Disabilities Halton Borough Council

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Email: AimingHigh.forDisabledChildren@halton.gov.uk