



Short Breaks Service



For Children with Disabilities

Newsletter w/c 25th 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 20th 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



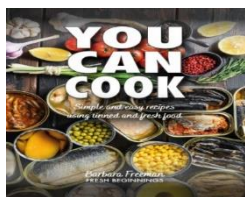
Halton SEND Parent Carer's Forum events continue through September including their latest **parent drop in session on Thursday 28th September 9.30am-11.30am** at St. Bede's Junior School in Widnes.

The Forum also has their next online Zoom parent information workshop:

- **Thursday 28th 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=bmVNcEcwWUIES09TZXR0bkxHV3ArZz09>
 - 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 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 th September	Forum reopens after summer	9.30am - 1.30pm		The forum reopens after summer.
Thursday 14 th September	Dave Wilson -Healthwatch Halton Zoom	7.30pm -8.30pm	Zoom	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85999528028?pwd=L1Jud1VDb3dGWXFLbFhhUWlrck1HQT09 Meeting ID: 859 9952 8028 Passcode: 818122
Thursday 21 st 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 st September	Autism and ARFID Parent Training Workshop Delivered by – The Autism Wellbeing Project	7.30pm-8.30pm	ONLINE (Zoom)	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87076897797?pwd=ZVV3cHZLb1pMNHc1RGZwak9ncnBpUT09 Meeting ID: 870 7689 7797 Passcode: 627915
Friday 22 nd September	Hummingbird Art session, with Pizza.	5pm -7pm	Hummingbird Art Studio The Village Hall, 12 Main St, Halton, Runcorn WA7 2AN	Bookable event – Fully booked.
Thursday 28 th 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 th September	SENDIASS Overview – Sharon English	7.30pm – 8.30pm	ONLINE (Zoom)	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912769782?pwd=bmVncEcwWUIES09TZXR0bkxHV3ArZz09 Meeting ID: 859 1276 9782 Passcode: 613917

Halton SEND Parent Carer's Forum



FREE FAMILY DINNER/COOKING SESSIONS

4th & 8th October 2023 – 5.30pm to 7pm – Six Spaces

15th and 29th November 2023 – 5.30pm to 7pm – Six Spces

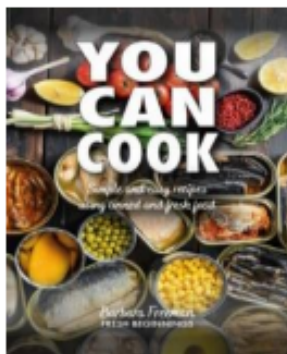
17th & 31st January 2024 – 5.30pm to 7pm – Six Spaces

8th & 15th February 2024 – 5.30pm to 7pm – Six Spaces

28th February & 31st 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

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

Email: info@haltonsendpcf.org.uk

Halton Youth Cabinet are recruiting now!



aged 11 - 18



**Living or
attending
school in
Halton**

**We need
YOU!**



Passionate



Halton Youth Cabinet is a group for young people from Halton, aged 11-18 who want to make a difference and create positive change! HYC work with local leaders and decisions makers, run campaigns, get involved in consultations and attend nation wide events.

Cabinet meetings: 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month

Get in touch to find out more.



info@haltonyc.co.uk



@HaltonYC



Laura - 07920227607

Halton Youth Cabinet are looking for young people aged 11-18 who want to make a difference and create positive change. Get in touch with the team to find out more, email info@haltonyc.co.uk or call Laura on 07920 227607.

October half-term Soccer Camp

OCTOBER HALF TERM SOCCER CAMP

MON 30TH & TUE 31ST OCT
THU 2ND & FRI 3RD NOV

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE
NO CAMP ON THE WED 1ST

BROOKVALE RECREATION CENTRE
RUNCORN WA7 6EP



FA AFFILIATED
COACHES

**30 FREE PLACES PER CAMP FOR CHILDREN AGE 10-16
PACKED LUNCH NOT PROVIDED • SEND FRIENDLY**

**PLEASE EMAIL OR TEXT FULL NAME, DOB, POST CODE
AND SCHOOL ATTENDED TO SECURE A PLACE**



To book your place David Todd

07712 637360

dynamic-sportscoaching@outlook.com

Please provide full name, age,
post code and any additional
information when booking.
Please ensure children bring
relevant clothing, footwear, and a
drink with name clearly written on it.



Department
for Education

Dynamic Sports Coaching are holding their Soccer Camp over October half-term at Brookvale Recreation Centre **with 30 free places available** for young people aged 10-16. To book your places email dynamic-sportscoaching@outlook.com or text **07712 637360** with your details including full name, date of birth, postcode and school attended.

Open Day at Widnes Fire Station



Community Fire Station

OPEN DAY

Widnes Fire Station

Saturday 7 October
11am to 2pm

Stalls, demonstrations
and much much more

All welcome

 CheshireFRS  CheshireFire  CheshireFRS

 CheshireFRS www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Join the team at Widnes Fire Station on **Saturday 7th October** at their open day between 11am and 2pm. There will be stalls, demonstrations, food and much more and all are welcome! Check out their [Facebook page here](#) for more information.

**Autism friendly film screenings at Cineworld
Runcorn**



Cineworld Runcorn are holding their latest autism friendly film screening on **Sunday 1st October at 11am**; this week it's Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

[Visit their website](#) or check out their **[Facebook page](#)** for more information.

LEAP – the energy and money saving service

LEAP - The Energy and Money Saving Service

FREE
FOR LOCAL
RESIDENTS

We are offering local residents a completely **FREE OF CHARGE** service called **LEAP** (Local Energy Advice Partnership). **LEAP** can reduce your energy usage and keep you warm and cosy.

HOW IT WORKS:

If you are eligible, we will book you an appointment with one of our friendly, qualified advisers. LEAP can:

Check your energy bills to ensure you are not paying too much for your energy

Provide FREE, simple energy saving measures which can save the average household £30 on their energy bills a year.

Give you day-to-day energy efficiency hints and tips and ensure your heating system is set up to keep you warm and save money.

Arrange a FREE telephone advice service to help with benefits, debt and other money problems.

Refer you for further funded energy efficiency improvements, such as insulation and efficient heating systems.

Call us now on 0800 060 7567*

[Freephone] to book your appointment, or apply online:

www.applyforleap.org.uk

  LeapService: *8:45am-5:30pm Monday to Friday



ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

You may be eligible for the LEAP service if one of the below apply. If you:

- have a low income
- receive tax credits
- receive Housing Benefit
- receive an income or disability related benefit



Did you know that Halton residents have free access to Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP)?

They can provide free energy saving measures, give day-to-day energy efficiency tips, and refer you for further funded energy efficiency improvements. **Call 0800 0607567** or [visit their website here](http://www.applyforleap.org.uk) to find out if you are eligible and to apply.

Men's Shed Group Talks introductory sessions



Men's Shed Group Talks



Men's Shed Group Talks are for men to discuss a variety of topics that can help improve their health and wellbeing. Discussions are impartial, independent, non-judgmental and non-discriminatory.

Sessions will be held at **Catalyst Science Discovery Centre and Museum, Widnes, WA8 0DF.**

Introductory sessions are being held on **Thursday 21st September and Thursday 5th October at 11-2pm.**

The group is open to men aged 18 and over from Halton and surrounding areas.

Subs will be £3 per session and includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Any money over will be spent on activities on the group.

As this is a new group, new ideas for group activities such as trips, photography, art, joinery, learning a new instrument, job application tips, are welcome!

For an informal chat and to find out more or to book your place please contact **Colin on 07910 926595** or

email chorley21658@gmail.com



Men's Shed Group Talks introductory sessions continue with the next one planned for **Thursday 5th October 11am-2pm at the Catalyst Museum Widnes.** This new group is an opportunity for men to meet to discuss a variety of topics to improve their health and wellbeing. For more information please **contact Colin on 07910 926595** or email **chorley21658@gmail.com**.

Autism Adventures Multisport sessions



Autism Adventures Training are holding their multisport sessions **every Wednesday 5-6pm for young people aged 8-19** at Austin Rawlinson centre in Speke. The sessions are fully funded, parent/carers must remain during the session. You can contact the team for any further details through [their website here](#), or check out [their Facebook page here](#) and message them to book a place.

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** 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

Tel: 0151 511 6560

Email: **AimingHigh.forDisabledChildren@halton.gov.uk**