



Short Breaks Service



For Children with Disabilities

Newsletter w/c 27th 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.

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



Halton SEND Parent Carer's Forum November events and activities continue this week including their Brunch Club for parents and carers on **Thursday 30th November between 11am and 1pm at Space Runcorn, Regent Street, Runcorn.**

They also have their latest online Zoom parent information workshop:

- **Thursday 30th November 7.30pm Dennis Dewar from Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust**
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82973613116?pwd=NzUwVmZlXN01UzDF2ZDBQUGFJRDNmUT09>
 - Meeting ID: 829 7631 3116 Passcode: 330426

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
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

ADDvanced Solutions Community Network Group



ADDvanced Solutions
Community Network
Supporting you to find the answers

HALTON COMMUNITY NETWORK GROUP

DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
(CHILDREN'S CENTRE), DUNDALK
ROAD, WIDNES, WA8 8DF

THIS WEEK:

MONDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 12.30PM - 2.30PM

The Graduated Approach to Support in School:

Join us as we discuss what the Graduated Approach to SEN looks like in your local area. Bring any questions or areas of concern for this informal learning opportunity.

NEXT WEEK:

MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER 12.30PM - 2.30PM

Preparing for Christmas:

For neurodiverse children and young people, Christmas can be a time of confusion, anxiety, and distress which can affect the whole family. We look at ways to reduce stress and support our families to have a fun and relaxing time.

free to attend for any parents and carers of
neurodiverse children or young people,
with or without a specific diagnosis.
just drop in- no booking needed

If you have concerns about your child's behaviour or progress at school, ADDvanced Solution's Halton Community Network Group offers support to help you learn, understand and meet the needs of your child and family. The sessions are held at Ditton Community Centre, Dundalk Road, Widnes 12.30pm-2.30pm – next **Monday 4th December the topic will be 'Preparing for Christmas'**. Just drop in, there's no booking needed!

Find out more on [the ADDvanced solutions website here](#) where you can also sign up for their newsletter and learn more about how they can support parents and carers of neurodiverse children and young people, with or without a specific diagnosis.

Free Cookery session with SEND R US



 SEND R US CIC

Free **COOKERY** SESSION

**For individuals & families in
Halton with SEND**



Places are limited so
message us to book a
space

**Saturday 2nd December
3pm-5pm**

**Teatree Café
Mooring Close
Runcorn
WA7 6DA**



SEND R US CIC



sendrus@mail.com



All children must be accompanied by a parent or carer

Join SEND R US for another great free cookery session young people and their families with SEND in Halton, at Teatree Café Runcorn on Saturday 2nd December 3pm-5pm.

Places are limited so message the team through [their Facebook page here](#) or email sendrus@mail.com.

Get involved with Youthwatch Halton

Would You Like To Be The Voice Of Your Community?

Healthwatch Halton are looking for young volunteers aged 13-25 to help change local health and social care services for the better.

Our aim is to establish what matters most to young people relating to health and social care, whether it be GP waiting times, sexual health clinics, mental health services etc and have their voice heard.

- Youthwatch Halton will hear young people's voices and make sure that they are involved directly in decision making within Halton.
- Develop skills and experience, build your CV, have fun and meet new friends.
- Learn about Health and Social Care and change things for the better.
- Shine a light on the issues that matter to you, your friends and community.
- Select projects to gather views from children and young people's experiences of Health and Social Care.

For more information, get in touch with Kathy, phone, email, facebook, twitter and website:

Call us on (+44) 07732 683480 or 0300 777 6543
kathy.mcmullin@healthwatchhalton.co.uk
www.healthwatchhalton.co.uk

Healthwatch Halton
A.R.T.Centre,
Tan House Lane, Widnes
WAB 0RR.



healthwatch
Halton



Healthwatch Halton are on the lookout for young people aged 13 to 25 who can help them to develop Youthwatch Halton – a new place for young people to learn more about their health and social care services, have their experiences heard and to develop new skills. If you are a young person and would like to help improve local health and social care services, whilst increasing your skills please get in touch! Visit [their website here](http://www.healthwatchhalton.co.uk) or email: kathy.mcmullin@healthwatchhalton.co.uk or call **0300 777 6543** for more information or to get involved.

Volunteer as an Independent Visitor for young people in Halton

Befriend a local young person in care



Volunteer as an Independent Visitor

What does an independent Visitor do?

An independent visitor is a volunteer who befriends and develops a long-term friendship with a young person in care.

Becoming an Independent Visitor can be very rewarding for you and life changing for a young person in care, being a consistent and supportive person in their life, helping them learn to trust, have fun and grow.

Who we are looking for?

We are looking for adults of all ages and from all walks of life who relate well to young people and have a genuine interest in their well-being. We ask you to commit a few hours once a month for a minimum of two years and be a consistent and trusted friend in a young person's life.

No formal experience necessary as full training and induction provided including out of pocket expenses

For more information

Please contact us with your details

Jamie Roberts IV Co-ordinator Halton

jamie.roberts@nyas.net

07442493931



Alternatively please visit our website www.nyas.net/services/independent-visitors/ and complete the online volunteer registration form.

www.nyas.net

 [NYAS.yv](https://www.facebook.com/NYAS.yv)  [@NYASServices](https://twitter.com/NYASServices)

Registered Charity No. 502280

The National Youth Advocacy Service are recruiting volunteers to befriend young people in Halton who are being looked after by the local authority. This is a fantastic opportunity to support some of the most vulnerable children and young people in our area – contact Jamie Roberts to find out more: jamie.roberts@nyas.net or call **07442 493931**. You can also [visit the NYAS website here](http://www.nyas.net/services/independent-visitors/) to complete an online registration form.

Help make the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre and Museum more accessible

Share your views with



Catalyst has been awarded funding from
The National Lottery Heritage Fund for
a new project called 'Synergy'.

Please follow the link below to fill in our survey

Catalyst Science Discovery Centre and Museum need you to share your views! They have been awarded development funding by The National Lottery Heritage Fund for a new project called 'Synergy.' They are exploring how to make Catalyst more accessible for the local community and new audiences. The project will redevelop Catalyst's heritage gallery and provide new activities and events for visitors.

Whether you have visited recently, in the past, or not at all, we would like to hear from you! Please **[click this link to fill in their questionnaire.](#)**

Halton Carers Centre – latest newsletter now available

**HALTON
CARERS
CENTRE**

A Network Partner of
**CARERS
TRUST**

Halton Carers Centre have published their latest newsletter – [click here to read the full version](#) with lots of useful information and resources.

If you are a carer living in Halton and not yet registered with the Centre you can do so by clicking on the following links:

- [Adult carers](#)
- [Young carers \(age 17 or younger\)](#)

Don't forget they have two **fantastic workshops for parent carers coming up in February and March 2024** including a Tourettes/Tic workshop for parent carers being hosted by Tourettes Action, and a Sensory Workshop hosted by Shine Therapy (this workshop will be a full day event for parents to attend, the date is to be confirmed but will be a Saturday) – find out more on [their Facebook page here](#).

New Music activities for young people aged 16-15 at The Studio Widnes

AMPLIFY @ THE STUDIO
The Studio, Lacey Street, Widnes WA8 7SQ

YOUTH MUSIC ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

TUESDAYS : FREE
5.30PM-7.15PM : AGES 11-16
6.45PM-8.30PM : AGES 16-19

the studio LOOSE
HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

www.thestudiowidnes.org.uk
amplifythestudio@gmail.com
info@thestudiowidnes.org.uk

Amplify @ The Studio Widnes offers music activities every Tuesday for young people in Halton.

- Ages 11-16 – 5.30pm-7.15pm
- Ages 16-19 – 6.45pm-8.30pm

Visit [The Studio website here](#) or email amplifythestudio@gmail.com to find out more.

Christmas holiday activities across Halton



There are lots of **FREE activities** during the Christmas holiday period for school aged children, from **Reception to Year 11**, who receive benefits-related to free school meals.

There are also a number of places available to other vulnerable groups of children and young people, such as SEND, Young Carers, and young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). Most of the activities include a **FREE Lunch each day**.

Activities are available in both Runcorn and Widnes and include lots of different activities. Here's a selection below of some of the activities on offer, and we'll continue to update these through our newsletter as we approach Christmas.

You can also [click on this link](#) for a full up-to-date list of the activities and a google map showing the areas in Halton where activities will be taking place long with the providers contact details and information on accessibility for children and young people with SEND (the table with the list of SEND keys is below).

You can also find out more information on the [Halton Local Offer page online](#) or contact the [Short Breaks Service for Children with Disabilities](#) team too.

Halton Local Offer 

SEND Keys – Youth Provision

Want to find out if the provision offers activities for children and young people with SEND?

Check out the table below for the SEND Keys guide

Activities can offer SEND specific and SEND accessible activities for children and young people across the youth programme

SS – SEND Specific:	Solely for children and young people with SEND and their families
S – SEND Friendly:	Venue or event where providers have general SEND awareness and small adjustments can be made
SA - SEND Accessible:	Physically accessible venue or event
F – Family Friendly:	Accessible for all families

KIDS WINTER FUN CAMP 2023

SENSHI
ACADEMY



**FREEPACK
LUNCH
EACHDAY**

20 FREE SPACES

FOR DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT

LORRAINE RILEY ON: 07595874038

DECEMBER 21st-22nd & 27th-29th

TIMES : 10:00AM - 14:30PM

FROM AGES 7-11 YEARS



**VENUE: SENSHI ACADEMY, OPTIMUM FITNESS
HALEROAD WIDNES WA8 8TL**



Senshi Academy in Widnes are holding a Fun Camp for young people aged 7-11 on **Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd, and Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th December** from 10am-2.2.30pm.

There are 20 free spaces available with a free lunch included – contact Lorraine on **07595 874038** to book on.

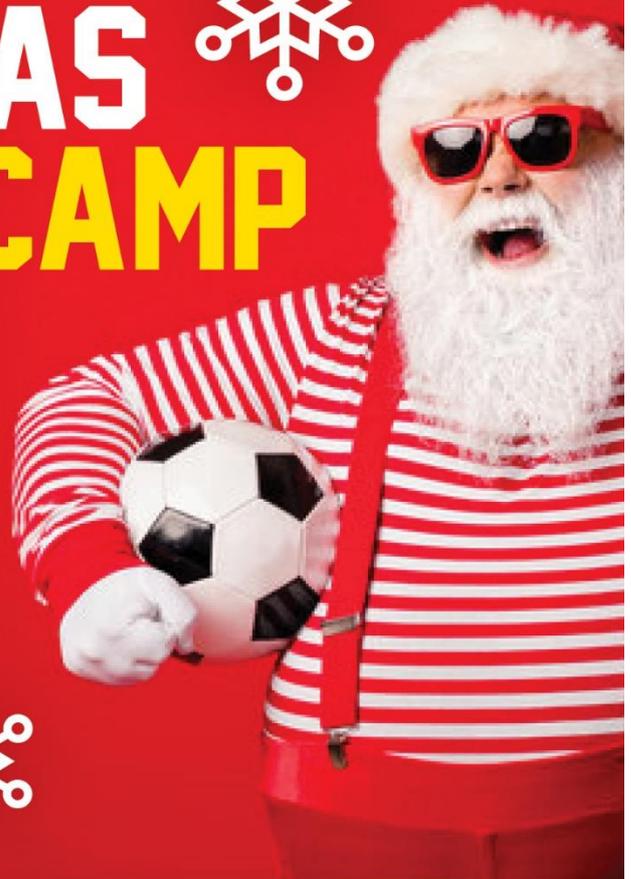
CHRISTMAS SOCCER CAMP

**SATURDAY 23RD
DECEMBER 2023**
9AM-3PM

BROOKVALE RECREATION CENTRE
RUNCORN WA7 6EP



**FA AFFILIATED
COACHES**



30 FREE PLACES AVAILABLE 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.



Join Dynamic Sports Coaching for their Christmas Soccer Camp on **Saturday 23rd December 9am-3pm** at Brookvale Recreation Centre. Please email or text your details to David Todd: dynamic-sportscoaching@outlook.com or **07712 637360**.

Runcorn Family Hubs Christmas Party for the under-5's at Castlefields Community Centre



FamilyHub
Together for all in Halton

Runcorn Family Hubs
Christmas Party 2023

Friday 8th December
12.30-2.30pm
Castlefields Community Centre

Join us for our Under 5's Christmas Party with Free Entertainment from Jumping Jacks, Party Food, Visit to Santa's Grotto, food a gift for each child.
Dress Code: Christmas Jumpers / Festive outfits (optional)

Tickets available from 12.30pm on 24th November 2023
From Windmill Hill Family Hub ONLY.
For more details see reverse of Flyer

www.haltonfamilyhubs.co.uk



Join the Runcorn Family Hubs team for their under-5's Christmas Party on Friday 8th December 12.30pm-2.30pm at Castlefields Community Centre. There'll be free entertainment, party food, and Santa's Grotto!

Free tickets are still available but must be collected from Windmill Hill Family Hub this week.

Christmas Eco Market at Victoria Park Widnes

Vpet & Butterfly House Fundraiser

**Christmas
Eco Market**

Sunday 3 December

11am-3pm, Free Entry

The Glasshouse, Victoria Park, Widnes.



Come along to the Glasshouse at Victoria Park Widnes on Sunday 3rd December 11am-3pm for their Christmas Eco Market – entry is free!

Join in Halton's 'Big Conversation' by Thursday

30th November

**“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 the Short Breaks Service know and we will try to include it next time. If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please let us know by contacting us at the email address or phone number below.

Halton Borough Council

Short Breaks Service for Children with Disabilities

Email: AimingHigh.forDisabledChildren@halton.gov.uk

Tel: 0151 511 6560