

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM CARL HARRIS CEO

Hello all and welcome to our summer/autumn edition of the carers centre newsletter, where has the year gone already!

Thanks to those carers who could attend the Carers Forum held in May at the Foundry in Widnes, your input, alongside those who completed the survey online have helped to shape Halton Borough Council Carers strategy for the next 3years.

I'd like to take this as the opportunity to thank Michael Shepherd who stepped down as the chair of the carers centre last February. Mike had been chair since 2012 and alongside the rest of the board of trustees helped provide oversight of the centre, ensuring that the centre is doing what it was set up to do.

We would also like to thank Councillor Mark Dennett and his wife Andrea for choosing Halton Carers Centre and Widnes and Runcorn Cancer support as their chosen charities whilst he was Mayor of Halton 22/23, both their support and commitment to helping raise the profile of unpaid carers was, and is, truely appreciated and we wish them both well.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and if you have any suggestions to help us improve this publication please let me know.



Many thanks, Carl



01928 580182

Halton Carers Centre is registered in England & Wales as a Registered Charity Number: 1124493

Company limited by Guarantee No: 06574889











CARERS GARDEN



Have you taken the opportunity to visit our Runcorn office carers garden yet?

Several months ago we were awarded money from the National Lottery Community

Fund and we have put that money to great use! We now have a carers garden to be
proud of full of beautiful blooms and raised beds brimming with veg such as
courgettes, cucumbers, tomatoes and peas to name just a few!

All alongside our now 3 busy bee hives and wormery composter!

Our carers garden is open to all to pop in, have a look around, sit with a drink or a
peaceful place for you to come and have time out!

You can drop in any time during our Runcorn office opening hours.











As a carer do you ever feel confused? Not sure where to turn, or have a question that you're not sure who could answer?

Then our adult & young carers support workers are here for you! Don't wait for us to call you for your carers annual review, once you are registered with us at the centre you can contact us via dropping into our offices and over the telephone during our office opening hours. Or message us on our social media pages any time and our member of our team will contact you when our office is open.

HALTON CARERS CENTRE LOTTERY DRAWN ON THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH

Supporting Unpaid Carers in Halton

1st 2nd 3rd Prizes

How To Play ? For Just £5.00 per month per number

Pay by Standing Order Halton Carers Centre Bank Details Organization : Malton Carers Centre Ltd Sort Code: 30-99-14 Account Number 07833685

ding orders to be paid on or before the 15th of the month Cash by 12pm on the 20th of the month

You can now Pay over the phone on 01928 580182





you wish join our monthly lottery please our QR scan code above or ring the office 01928 580182



62 Church Street, Runcorn WA7 1LD - Telephone 01928 580182 St Marie's Church, Lugsdale Road Widnes. WA8 6DB - Telephone 01928 592405 Email: holly.robson@haltoncarers.co.uk

Web: www.haltoncarers.co.uk



Work & Health Programme

Physical and mental health support

Help from in-house professionals local community experts and specialist health organisations

We can help you manage your health condition and support you with the move into work as well as provide guidance on how to address your health condition with your new employer. Our local partnerships mean we can offer a variety of wellbeing support to suit your needs and classes such as Pilates and walking groups.





Flexible approach



Tailored to you



Local

to you

Easy to access support

there someone else 18yrs+ helping you with your caring role or do you know another person who is a carer? If so, they can register with also ourselves as a carer and receive support. To do this they can either scan the relevant QR code with their smart phone or can give our team a call! Once our Support team receive the details they will be in touch with the carer to register them fully!



www.workandhealthnorthwest.co.uk

Please contact Halton on 0151 511 7555, email HPIJ@halton.gov.uk or scan the QR code, to find out how we can help you.



European Union









Help for Households in Halton



Halton Borough Council now have a number of schemes that are available to help you, this is due to funding from the household support fund which has come to us via central government.

These schemes will run from April 2023 until March 2024. Please check below to see if you qualify.



FREE Prescription Pre-payment Certificate Do you pay for your prescriptions?

If so, and you:

- Live in Halton
- Earn less that £26,000 per year or receive benefits

Under our scheme you will be entitled to a free pre-payment certificate, please contact us using the details at the bottom of this leaflet.

FREE Bus Pass

If you attend regular hospital or GP appointments, you may be entitled to a free bus pass. To qualify you must:

- · Live in Halton
- Earn less than £26,000 per year or receive benefits

The bus pass can also be used for other day to day travel purposes.





Do you regularly use essential electrical medical equipment at home?

We may be able to offer you some financial support. Requirements will vary depending on your circumstances, please contact us below.

Help to Stop Smoking

Do you want to stop smoking? Why not attend one of our stop smoking classes.

Visit: www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/health/hit/live/quitsmoking.aspx or call us on 0300 029 0029.

 We can now offer free Nicotine Replacement Therapy products (NRT) to all, even if you would normally pay for your prescriptions



How to apply – contact the Public Health Team, Halton Borough Council

- Call us on 0151 511 5200. You may be asked to leave your name and phone number and we will contact you back as soon as possible.
 - E-mail us at public.health@halton.gov.uk please include your name, address and a contact phone number and which part of the scheme you are applying for.









As a carer registered at Halton Carers Centre
you can access Relaxation Therapies, We
have a podiatrist and Beauty therapist that
hold weekly appointments in both of our
offices! Your first appointment with both
Emma/Tanya (Beauty Therapists) & Stuart
(Podiatrist) are free any appointments there
after will have a small charge:
Please see across for charges.
All appointments are pre booked so please
contact the office to book yours in today!



Charges for missed appointments We require 24 hours' notice for a cancellation so that we can reallocate the appointment.

Otherwise, we will charge you for the cost of the appointment.

This will be £25.00 for a chiropody appointment and £10 for a therapy appointment. Any carers who do not pay the charge will be unable to access any further treatments.

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Facial - £8.00

Manicure - £5.00

Pedicure - £7.00

Eyebrow wax - £5.00

Eyebrow tint - £5.00

Eyebrow wax & tint - £8.00

Lip/chin Wax - £ 5.00 Lash tint - £6.00 Reflexology £15.00

Podiatry session £15.00

Appointments Available

RELAXATION THERAPIES

Runcorn Office:

Thursday 10am - 4pm (reflexology only) Friday 10am - 4pm Saturday 10am - 1pm <u>Widnes Office:</u> Friday 10am - 4pm

> <u>PODIATRY</u> <u>Runcorn Office:</u>

Wednesday 10am - 2pm Saturday 10am - 1pm <u>Widnes Office:</u>

Thursday 9.15am - 2pm

<u>Call 01928 580182 to book your</u>

<u>appointment</u>

Mersey Care's Carer Engagement Team are excited to announce the launch of our new Carer Support Pathway and we are now open to receive referrals to carers supporting a Mersey Care Service User.



Community and Mental Health Services

Through our Carer Support Pathway carers can:

- ·Be given support to access Carers Centres and other local community organisations to support emotional and physical wellbeing.
- · Get involved in coproduction and engagement activities.
- · Have regular updates from the Carer Engagement Team.
- · Access peer support.
- · Access the Carer Training Education and Support Program (TES).

As a major NHS provider, Mersey Care has an important role in ensuring that carers in our region have these barriers removed and can access and receive care and services in an appropriate, enabling, and supportive way.

Mersey Care has developed a Carers Strategy which sets out how we will achieve this and is part of our commitment to improving the experience of patients and carers

The overall aim of the strategy is to develop ways of working that ensure carers feel informed and engaged in the care of the person/or people they support, as much as possible.

One of our strategic priorities is recognising and supporting carers, and our new Carer Engagement Team is here to help this happen. Our Team members all have their own lived experience of caring, and are working throughout the whole Trust to support teams with becoming more carer aware, identifying carers through engagement activity, and inviting them onto our carer support pathway.

Our Carer Support Pathway aims to recognise, refer, support and upskill unpaid carers in a way which meets their individual needs and has a positive impact on the person they are caring for and their own wellbeing.



For more information: Call 01925 972 801 Email carers@merseycare.nhs.uk





HALTON CARERS

TRAINING

We are pleased to we now have several new training sessions which are facilitated by Mersey Care. Below is the list of current training opportunities we have for carers registered at the centre, If you are interested in attending a course please contact the centre on 01928 580182 or email help@haltoncarers.co.uk places are limited on each session.

Mental Health Training - 2 sessions available (weekday & weekend)

A 2 hour course to have an understanding of MH conditions/types/symptoms/behaviours/causes, recognising misconceptions associated with MH, strategies and much more.

Monday 11th Sep and Sat 7th Oct 10.30am - 12.30am - Halton Carers Centre, Church Street, Runcorn

Strengthening Family Skills

This is a 4 week course (1 session per week) and covers invalidation, validation, understanding emotions, support positive communication, managing stressful situations and much more!

Starts Thurs 2nd Nov then following 3 Thursdays 10am - 12noon in St Maries Church, Lugsdale Road, Widnes.

Carers Mental Health Skills Training

This is a 4 week course (1 session per week) and covers understanding mental health/symptoms/behaviours/stages of behaviour changes, setting boundaries, impact on families and much more.

To access this course yourself or the person you care for must be a patient under a Mersey Care setting - Brooker Centre, Vine Street, Thorn Road Clinic, The Bridges, St Johns Centre

Beekeeping Course

Would you like to learn about Bees & Beekeeping

Halton Carers Centre will be delivering Beekeeping Courses, delivered by experienced Beekeepers, you will learn about,

Bees, Honeybees, How they live, What jobs they do & How you can help them.

This course is for all Young & Adults Carers



Tourettes

Tourettes Action is the go-to organisation in the UK for information on Tourettes (TS) and they raise awareness through the production of written and other published materials to improve the knowledge and understanding of TS. They

advocate for those living with TS to the statutory authorities e.g. schools and the health service, together with press and other media to improve the lives of those with TS. They also help provide the following:

- Provisions such as a helpline support by a call back phone service, email and an online live chat service providing information and support to people with TS and their families. **TA Helpdesk (tourettes-action.org.uk)**
- Providing educational support and advice to schools, teachers and parents. **Support in school (tourettes-action.org.uk)**
- Holding conferences, meetings and seminars on topics of interest to people with TS and their families.
- Encouraging and assisting research into all aspects of TS and disseminating the results as widely as possible. **Tourettes Action Research (tourettes-action.org.uk)**
- Facilitating online support groups to bring together individuals to provide fellowship both for themselves and their families. <u>Tourettes Action Online Support Groups</u> (tourettes-action.org.uk)
- Providing workshops and activities for the enjoyment and development of those with TS.
- Liaising with medical specialists in the TS field and offering advice to people living with TS as to the availability of specialist units, consultants and therapists.
- Offering small grants to individuals for the purchase of equipment and other items which will ameliorate the effects of TS. **TA grants (tourettes-action.org.uk)**
- Running weekend residential events throughout the year where people with TS and their families can come together to build personal confidence, resilience and a sense of community. <u>Tourettes Action Events (tourettes-action.org.uk)</u>

For more information on the service check out all the above links on their website.

DEMENTIA CARERS GROUP

Are you supporting someone with dementia or memory loss? Would you like to meet other carers and the person they care for?

If so, come and visit Halton Carers monthly dementia carers group which meets the lst Friday of the month in St Maries Church, lpm – 3pm the group is for carers and the person you care for. Each month we take part in fun quizzes, bingo or just sit and have a catch up, there is no need to book on and refreshments are all provided





Monthly Carers Groups

All of our groups are free to attend & refreshments are provided, they are the perfect place to come along and meet other carers and have a chat to our team

Dementia Carers Groups

Evening Group - Every Monday 6pm - 8pm @ Brunswick House, Runcorn.

lst Friday of the month 1.00pm - 3.00pm

@ St Maries Church, Widnes

All Carers Coffee Group

3rd Wednesday of the month 10am - 12pm @ St Maries Church, Widnes

3rd Thursday of the month 12pm - 2pm @ Space, Regent Street, Runcorn

Parent Carer Group

Last Friday of the month
12pm - 2pm @ Chi Cafe,
Phoenix Park, Runcorn.



There will be no group in Aug we will return in Sep



ADHD Carer Zoom Group

Last Monday of the month 6pm - 7pm

Mental Health Carers Group

Ist Tuesday of the month 10am - Ilam Halton Carers Centre, Runcorn

For exact dates of our groups or for the links to the Zoom group please contact the centre on 01928 580182

Carers Dog Walking Group

lst Thursday of the month meeting at

Halton Carers Centre, Runcorn.

10am - 11.30am





A Carers Voice -

We think it is important to hear the views from registered carers on the difference engaging with our services has made to them, below is Kelly's story....

Before becoming a registered carer I felt pretty isolated on our SEN journey. Accessing the monthly support groups have been massive for me personally; not only helping my own well -being but giving me the support required to be the best advocate for my sons needs and providing me with the information I needed to navigate the frustrating SEN childrens services battles. The coffee groups have helped me gain friends who understand fully our daily struggles- something I hadn't had previously. The centre often bring in knowledgeable local services to help gain a better understanding of SEN.

Although at first, attending these meetings may seem a little daunting, I tell everyone to come along, meet the staff and other supportive parents- it helped me massively! Through the Centre I have accessed day trips and therapies which has helped lift my spirits and gave me a little respite and 'me' time. I am also grateful for the little touches and thoughtful things the Centre provides along the way- they really do make a difference and help put a smile on my face. It is such a welcoming group who are very supportive and I look forward to our monthly meets.



People who are considered 'severely mentally impaired' are not counted as adults when working out Council Tax.

Severe mental impairment means a permanent condition which severely affects intellectual or social functioning.

This can include conditions like Parkinson's, dementia, and learning disabilities.

If you are 18+ and considered severely mentally impaired and you live with one other adult person who is not mentally impaired, you will get a 25% discount on your Council Tax.

If you are considered severely mentally impaired and you live with two or more other people who are not mentally impaired, you will not get any discount on your Council Tax.

If everyone in the house is severely mentally impaired, you will get a 50% or more discount on your Council Tax.

Your income and savings won't affect whether you can get this discount. You may need to be in receipt of certain benefits.

For more information on this please visit
 www.halton.gov.uk/pages/counciltaxbenfit or ring 0303 333 4300

(*Information taken from Turn To Us website)



Halton Libraries offers a number of services that are available to carers from home:

Home Library Service

This is available for people who can't get to the library for reasons of mobility, illness and caring responsibilities. A selection of books is delivered to your home once a month. The books are in normal print, large print or audio on CD. To register for this service please contact Halton Lea Library 0151 511 7744 or Widnes Library 0151 907 8383

Digital The following services are all available through our website www.halton.gov.uk/libraries and you just need a library card. If you don't have one, you can join at your nearest library or fill in the joining form online and we'll send you a library card.

Library Catalogue

You can search for a book using the tile author or subject and reserve a book for free to collect from your nearest library.

E Books

Free Ebooks can be accessed through Borrowbox, an app provided by Halton Libraries. This includes books for adults and children. These can be read on a phone, tablet or PC.

You can also listen to audio books through the same app.

Pressreader

With Pressreader you can access newspapers and magazines— all you need is a library card. There's a wide range of subjects including sport, parenting, pets, photography, health and entertainment and with great titles including Autocar, Heat, Empire, Now, My Weekly, Grazia and Good Food – there is something for everyone. It means you will never miss a copy of your favourite magazine.

Driving Theory Test

Theory Test Pro gives you free access to the official DSA Car and Motorbike driving theory test. A realistic simulation of the UK's driving theory test. It contains the entire official test question bank, hazard perception video clips and an online version of the Highway code.



Our Widnes base is open for carers to drop in for information & support Wednesday & Friday 10am - 4pm,

Thursday 10am - 3pm.

No appointment needed.

St Maries Church, Lugsdale Road, Widnes

CARERS DAY TRIPS

September 23 – December 23

By adding your name to the list for a day trip does not mean you have a place - we do not operate a first come first served basis, we will follow our allocation policy to allocate places which can be found on our website. If you are interested in any of the trips please ring the office or scan the QR code for your chosen trip and complete the online form, if you are allocated a place we will be in touch.

Friday 29th September - Adults Only

Evening at the comedy office

No Transport Provided

£5.00 per person.



Tuesday 31st October - Family Trip

Halloween Cinema Trip & Snack pack for childen Family friendly spooky film (fancy dress optional) £3.00 per person. Registered Young Carers £1.50



Wednesday 1st November - Family Trip

Catalyst Museum & Workshop

No Transport Provided

£3 per person. Registered Young Carers £1.50



Saturday 25th November 2pm - 4pm - Adult Carers only

Winter Wreath Making Session @ The Hummingbird Art Studio, Runcorn No transport provided £15.00 per person



Saturday 2nd December

York Christmas Markets
Transport provided there/back
£15.00 per person Registered Young Carers £7.50



Tuesday 5th December - Family Trip

Luminate @ Walton Gardens

No Transport Provided

£5.00 per person. Registered Young Carers £2.50



Wednesday 13th December

Christmas Eat & The Heath - Adult Carers Only
3 Course meal & entertainment.
No Transport Provided
Price TBC





You'll find us at:

CHI Community Café

Phoenix Park, Runcorn WA7 2LW 11.00am to 3.00pm on the second Thursday of the month

- 13th July
- 14th Sept
- 9th Nov

- 10th Aug
- 12th Oct

Upton Community Café

Hough Green Road, Widnes WA7 2LW 9.00am to 1.00pm on the first Monday of the month

- 3rd July
- · 7th Aug
- · 4th Sept
- 6th Nov

Brookvale Community Café

Northwich Road, Runcorn WA7 6PE 10.00am to 1.00pm on the first Tuesday of the month

- · 4th July
- · 1st Aug
- · 5th Sept
- 7th Nov

Tesco Café,

Lugsdale Road, Widnes WA8 7YT 10.00am to 2.00pm on the last Wednesday of the month

- 26th July
- 27th Sept
- 29th Nov

30th Aug

Mid Mersey

ageuk

Runcorn Office

Halton Direct Link (Widnes, WA8 6NB)

Fridays 9:30am - 2:30pm

25th Oct



Where to find us

(44 Church Street, Runcorn, WA7 1LR) Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 10am -2pm



Give us a call on 0300 777 6543 or email enquiries@healthwatchhalton.co.uk



or visit www.healthwatchhalton.co.uk

Living Well with Age UK Mid Mersey

Age UK Mid Mersey is an independent charity providing support for over 50s across Halton, Warrington, Knowsley and St Helens.

Age UK Mid-Mersey believes that growing older is a positive part of life that deserves to be celebrated. We believe that quality of life is possible for all and that people shouldn't have to stop doing the things they love just because of their age. We are passionate about portraying an accurate image of over 50s in society, representing different groups and making sure the voices of over 50s are heard.



"I can now access ealth appointments ore easily. Thank

with you

Connected

Like and follow us on social media!



Age UK Mid Mersey



@AgeUKMidMersey



ageukmidmersey



Age UK Mid Mersey



ageukmidmersey



For more information

you can go to our website

https://www.ageuk.org.uk/midmersey/



Telephone - 0300 003 1992 Email - enquiries@aukmm.org.uk

HALTON CARERS CENTRE FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES



Fundraise for Halton Carers Centre this summer! Whether you are looking at taking part in a sporting activity such as Tough Mudder, triathlon or colour race, maybe you want to sky dive or complete an abseil you can do so and raise funds for carers in Halton!

We now have a go fund me page which you can link to your activity and share with your family and/or on social media pages. If you have an idea of what you would like to do give us a call and have a chat with our team!

Or if you would rather fundraise from the safety & comfort of your armchair you can donate to our go-fund me page by scanning our QR code below!









We would like to say a big thank you for everyone who has made donations into the centre over the past few months. These his have included financial donations, donations towards our prize bingos and also Asda Runcorn, Tesco Widnes and Morrisons Widnes who have kindly donated items to several of our carers events that we have held over the spring & summer months.

NEW PARENT CARER GROUP DROP IN!

NEW FOR SEPTEMBER

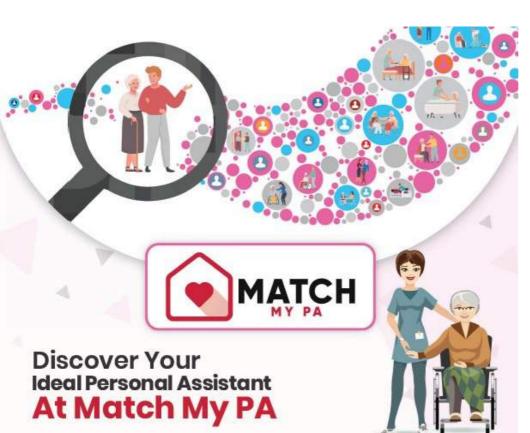
ON THE 2ND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 1.15PM-2.30PM HALTON CARERS CENTRE WILL BE HOLDING A DROP IN FOR PARENT CARERS ONLY WHO ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES OR NEED TO DISCUSS THEIR CARING ROLE IN A MORE QUIETER SETTING.

THIS WILL BE HELD ON FLOOR 2 AT HALTON LEA LIBRARY, RUNCORN.

Tea & Coffee will be provided
Please call 01928 580182 if you would
like any more information



We will still be running the group at CHI monthly where you are welcome to bring your children.



Are you in need of personalised care and support? Look no further than Match My PA in Runcorn, Widnes & Liverpool. We are your trusted local service, empowering individuals to take charge of their own care.

At Match My PA, clients can effortlessly advertise their care requirements, search for suitable candidates, meet potential Personal Assistants (PA's), and find the perfect match tailored to their unique needs. Our platform ensures accessible, top-quality care for everyone.

For PA's, we offer a wide array of live job opportunities in the local area. You can explore, connect with potential clients, and discover jobs that align with your skills, experience, and availability. Moreover, you have the freedom to determine your ownchargerates, giving you control over your earning potential. Choose Match My PA for a personalised care experience that puts you in the driver's seat.

Visit www.matchmypa.co.uk today!



A brand new website has been launched:
Autism Understood, a website about Autism for young autistic people. The website has been created to give us all a better understanding of what Autism is! www.autismundersto od.co.uk



By Peter Lloyd-Williams, age 11

Are you a family carer for an adult with learning disabilities? We need your help!



We want to find out about the mental health and wellbeing of family carers of adults with learning disabilities.



First, we want to talk with family carers about their mental health experiences.



Then we will work together to make a short film about these experiences.



You can take part online.

We will find a time and day that suits you.



To find out more please email either:

Katherine Runswick-Cole k.runswick-cole@sheffield.ac.uk Sara Ryan

Sara.Ryan@mmu.ac.uk



Upcoming Events for YC in August

We have a jam packed diary for our young carers over the summer break!

3rd August - Gardening Club - Young Carers all ages

8th August - Gullivers World - Young Carers aged 4 - 11yrs

11th August - First Aid Training - Young Carers all ages

17th August - Kayaking - Young Carers 11 - 17yrs

23rd August - Young Carers Disco - Young Carers 8 - 13years

24th August - Blue Planet Aquarium - Young Carers 4 - 11years

Below are some pics from our fantastic YC activities in May half term!













Please let us know what you think about our newsletter.

Do you have any suggestions for articles? Would you like to have ago at writing an article yourself?

Contact the centre on 01928 580182



COMPLIMENTS & COMPLAINTS

Although Halton Carers' Centre aims to provide the highest standard of services as possible, some time we may fall short of our standards. If this happens please let us know, as hearing your views helps us to improve the services we provide. You can complain or compliment us via our CEO Carl Harris email: carl.harris@haltoncarers.co.uk or telephone 01928 580182 or Chair of the Trustee Board, Bob Bryant at Halton Carers' Centre. You can also complain to Halton Borough Council should your complaint not be handled satisfactorily.



For regular up to date information on all of the services we offer please follow us on our social media pages:



Halton Carers Centre (Adult Carers)
Halton_young_carers



Halton Carers Centre (Adult Carers)
Halton_young_carers



Halton Carers Centre

Please keep us informed - help us to keep your information updated

If your details have changed since you registered with us, such as you have become ill, you've started to care for more than one person, the health of the person you care for has changed or your personal details have changed such as address, contact number, email address etc please let us know. You can do this by calling into our office, telephoning us or email help@haltoncarers.co..uk

If you are no longer a carer and want to be removed from our system please let us know and we can update our database.











