

Supporting families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Many parents of children with disabilities struggle to attend Halton Family Hub groups due to concerns about judgment, discomfort in mixed-ability settings, and anxiety over large groups.

Recognising these challenges, Halton 0-19(25) and Early Years Workers have collaborated to create a pioneering solution: a dedicated stay and play session at Warrington Road Family Hub specifically designed for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The innovative group provides a carefully crafted, supportive environment that prioritises a safe, inclusive space for SEND children and their families with accessible peer support facilitated by Child and Family practitioners.

During the four-week pilot, five children and their parents participated. Staff have been intentional about actively listening to children's voices and have incorporated parent feedback to continuously improve the group's structure.

Moving Forward

Following the successful pilot, the group will launch in March with:

- Increased capacity while maintaining an intimate group setting
- A developing referral process and clear eligibility criteria
- Plans to expand to a second location in Runcorn in the near future

The initial parent feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, indicating a promising start to this support initiative.

Feedback

Parents said they value the judgment-free environment and connection with others facing similar challenges. Children are engaging well, showing comfort and enthusiasm for the sessions.

This initiative marks an important step in ensuring all families feel supported within their community.



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INFANT FEEDING

Innovative School Nurse Support for Special Educational Needs

Carolyn, our dedicated School Nurse, has developed an innovative drop-in clinic at The Cavendish High Academy, a special educational needs provision in Runcorn.

This initiative addresses a critical gap in healthcare support for students with special educational needs.

A Unique Approach to Healthcare Support

The drop-in clinic operates on an alternating weekly schedule:

- Week 1: Dedicated to young people
- Week 2: Dedicated to parents



Key Benefits

For Students

- Confidential access to a school nurse
- Opportunity to discuss physical and emotional health
- Personalised healthcare support tailored to individual needs
- Equivalent school nurse access to mainstream school settings

For Parents

- Peer support network
- Direct communication channel with healthcare professionals
- Shared experiences and resources

Impact and Feedback

The initiative has been met with exceptional enthusiasm:

- High utilisation rates
- Particularly appreciated by parents
- Positive feedback highlighting the program's value

This targeted approach ensures that students with special educational needs receive comprehensive, compassionate healthcare support in a comfortable and accessible environment.



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INFANT FEEDING

Innovative Community Safety Program

Crucial Crew represents a powerful partnership of local agencies, including:

- Health services
- Police and Transport Police
- Road Safety
- Magistrates
- Energy Networks

Halton 0-19's Contribution

Public Health Child and Family practitioners Rachel and Julie led the team's involvement, delivering a critical life-saving skills session for Year 5 students focused on:

- Teaching the recovery position
- Empowering children with essential first-aid knowledge
- Promoting child safety and personal resilience

Some quotes from the attendees include:

"This is my fave because it is hands on."

"This is cool!"

"I'm going to try this on my parents!"

"This is my favourite out of the lessons today!"



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INFANT FEEDING

Start for Life Wellbeing Team: Supporting Families

Community Engagement Highlights

The Start for Life Wellbeing Team launched two key initiatives in January:

Baby Shower Event

- First baby shower hosted at Warrington Road
- Timed with well-baby and midwifery clinics
- Highly attended and well-received

Comprehensive Family Support Pathways

Neonatal Pathway

- Developing a dedicated neonatal care pathway
- Health visitor conducting regular visits to Warrington Hospital's neonatal unit
- Establishing strong connections between hospital and community services

Pre-Birth Pathway

- Implementing joint visits between social care and team members
- Showcasing effective inter-agency partnership
- Providing proactive support from pre-birth through early childhood

Breakthrough in Infant Feeding Support in Halton

Halton has achieved a significant milestone in infant feeding support:

- 6-8 week breastfeeding continuation rate: 37%
- Unprecedented 12% increase over two years
- Highest recorded rate in over a decade

Key Drivers of Success

Strategic Approach

- Expanded infant feeding team
- Comprehensive staff training across 0-19 service
- Strong inter-agency partnerships (Halton Borough Council and 0-19 service)
- Family hub funding support



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INFANT FEEDING

Current Performance

- 72.5% of families continue breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks
- Current drop-off rate: 27.5%

Future Outlook

Continued focus on:

- Community engagement
- Specialist support access
- Innovative breastfeeding promotion initiatives
- Further reducing breastfeeding discontinuation rates

Impact

A collaborative, multi-faceted approach demonstrating the power of targeted public health interventions in supporting new families.



Contact Us

Runcorn duty team: 01928 593 056

Email: bchft.runcorn519duty@nhs.net

Widnes duty team: 01514 955 200

Email: bchft.widnes519duty@nhs.net

Website: [Halton 0-19 \(25\) Healthy Child Service](#)



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