**Latest News from Halton**

**Health Protection Board (Formally System Assurance Group)**
The System Assurance Group has now been stepped down from weekly meetings, with all system activity in response to the pandemic now having oversight from a system-wide Health Protection Board. The Health Protection Board will continue to oversee the implementation of local outbreak plans, to ensure that we are sufficiently prepared to deal with any future local outbreaks.

**Shielded Patients**
In Halton, there were over 7000 residents with conditions which meant they needed to shield. Of these, over 4000 registered with the Government to receive some form of support. Halton Borough Council helped provide this support, contacting everyone to identify what help they needed and to put this in place.

Council staff were redeployed to make calls and deliver food parcels; arrangements were also put in place with local volunteers and with Cheshire Fire and Rescue/Cheshire Police to deliver prescriptions and provide other basic support.

A new telephone helpline was set up and with Halton and St Helen’s Voluntary & Community Action, other vulnerable residents, who though not shielding, were still in need of help, were given the support they needed.

Over this period:
- 662 emergency food parcels provided (over and above the 1734 Government food parcel deliveries)
- 250 people received regular welfare calls to combat loneliness
- 463 socially distanced doorstep visits made by emergency services
- 6457 cases actioned through the Council’s Covid support team
- 342 referrals made to the Volunteer Hub, with 100% volunteer opportunities fulfilled.

When shielding is paused on 1 August, it will mean that those in this category can:
- return to work – as long as their workplace is COVID-secure – but carry on working from home if they can
- children who have been shielding can go back to school after the summer break
- go outside to buy food, to places of worship and for exercise – keeping two metres away wherever possible.

The Council has written to all those who registered as shielded, with information about ongoing support and advice that is available. It has also set out plans on how it would ‘step up’ arrangements again should they be needed, for example if there was a local lockdown. The Council’s support line 0151 907 8363 is still open for those who continue to need support as restrictions are eased. Information on support and advice that is available can also be found online at www.onehalton.uk/shieldedsupport.

**Visitors Update:**
North West Boroughs Healthcare are now able to accept visitors onto some of their wards. New safety measures put in place are being reviewed and adapted during a gradual rollout and visiting will continue to be closely monitored. This is a positive step forward to enable patients to see their loved ones.

**Rebrand of the Halton Hospital Site**
The Cheshire and Merseyside Treatment Centre will be known as the ‘Captain Sir Tom Moore Building’, honouring the centenarian who raised over £30m for NHS charities during the pandemic. The general hospital building (both phase 1 and phase 2) will be known as the ‘Nightingale Building’ in honour of the world’s most famous nurse, who celebrates a bicentennial anniversary in 2020 - the WHO Year of the Nurse and Midwife. The overall site will be known as Halton Hospital (comprising the two buildings).

The full article can be accessed [Here](#).

**Elective Programme Recommences at Halton**
Warrington & Halton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has recommenced its planned care programme at its dedicated elective site at Runcorn, where the Cheshire and Merseyside Treatment Centre has been deemed ‘COVID-secure’.

Planned care is being restored for patients across a wide range of services, many of which will be carried out from this building for the first time. The bed base has correspondingly increased to 44 and the average length of stay is expected to be approximately 24 hours.

Cancer and urgent surgeries have been continuing at Warrington Hospital during the pandemic, but now trauma and orthopaedic, breast surgery and ambulatory trauma services have all been reinstated from the ‘COVID-secure building’. In the coming weeks, urology surgery will commence and the creation of a ‘PACU’ Anaesthetic Care Unit will enable more ‘high risk’ patients to have their surgeries at the elective centre. Endoscopy has already recommenced at Halton General, with the Chemotherapy Centre and Planned Investigations Units all re-opened.

To minimise any possible risk of COVID-19 infection, all patients will be fully screened ahead of attending for their procedures and the wearing of face coverings/hand sanitising/social distancing/visiting restrictions will be in place, according to the current government guidance.

**Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**
The Trust’s initial focus between now and September, is on those aspects of services where detailed assessment of waiting lists and cases highlights urgent clinical risk. The Trust is also prioritising restart of the childhood immunisations and vaccinations programme. This first stage will be followed by a controlled and phased introduction of routine services to the end of March 2021.
One Halton Newsletter
01 August 2020

Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership - Programmes

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<th>Suicide Prevention</th>
<th>Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)</th>
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<td>Cheshire &amp; Merseyside has been officially awarded Suicide-Safer Community status by Living Works, the world's leading suicide prevention training company. This award is symbolic of the fantastic leadership and hard work of colleagues and partners from across Cheshire &amp; Merseyside over the last five years, implementing the No More Suicide Strategy together.</td>
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<td>Whilst the ongoing coronavirus pandemic is rightly at the forefront of health concerns at present, Cheshire &amp; Merseyside Local Authorities and the NHS are urging people to remember to look after their heart health during this time. The Happy Hearts website has been available to patients and professionals across Cheshire and Merseyside since 2018. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the public, patients and carers are encouraged to find out the latest advice and key messages about atrial fibrillation, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and simply staying happy and healthy, by going to <a href="http://www.happy-hearts.co.uk">www.happy-hearts.co.uk</a>. For the full article featured on the Champs Public Health website, see here</td>
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**World Suicide Prevention Day, 10 September 2020, 10.00 am - 12.00 noon**

You are warmly invited to attend a webinar via Microsoft Teams on World Suicide Prevention Day, 10th September 2020. The webinar will be an excellent opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the Cheshire & Merseyside No More Suicide Strategy, five years on since its launch, including the prestigious Suicide Safer Community award. It will also mark World Suicide Prevention Day and look to the future with hope as we move forward during COVID-19. You will hear from a variety of national and local speakers from organisations working to prevent suicide in our communities.

**Who should attend?**

Directors of Public Health, Health Care Partnership and CCG leads, NO MORE Suicide Partnership Board, people with lived experience, peer support groups, suicide prevention and bereavement charities, local suicide prevention groups, public health and intelligence leads, school nurses, CAMHS and providers of children and young people’s services, first responders (police, ambulance, fire service), rail & road network partners

*Please disseminate this invitation to any colleagues you feel would be interested in attending.*

To register via Eventbrite click [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/world-suicide-prevention-day-ticketinformation-111557991750)

For further information please email champscpd@Wirral.gov.uk

**Doing Things Differently** is a system leadership development programme across Cheshire and Merseyside looking to solve together the way we support people living with cardio-vascular disease.

The Programme consisted of three workshops held in February, March and April 2020. However the programme was put on hold before the last session was able to take place. It is now proposed that the third session will take place virtually on Thursday 24th September 2020.

Contact Us:

If you wish to include any information in future newsletters please email onehalton@halton.gov.uk

For further information relating to one Halton please visit: [https://onehalton.uk/](https://onehalton.uk/)