

RAISING THE PROFILE OF SAFEGUARDING AND PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE

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Chair's Introduction

Hi Everyone

Welcome to the latest edition of HSAB Partnership Forum's newsletter. The first article is a really interesting account of the work of Trinity Safe Space in supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Halton. From providing the safe spaces for which they are named - to helping people resettle when they are given leave to remain - this local charity is making a real difference. Sadly the article also highlights some of the barriers and challenges that many people continue to face even after they have been granted refugee status. These factors are leading to homelessness and serious mental health issues which are massively increasing safeguarding risks for the people affected. In addition to the safeguarding risks that are faced by all homeless people – particularly if they are forced to sleep rough – there are additional risks for this group such as being victims of hate crime or being forced into modern slavery.

These issues are high on the Council's agenda and will - I'm sure - feature heavily in the work of the SAB, the Safer Halton Partnership and many other bodies – including the Partnership Forum over the coming months.

The police service is also a key member of a wide range of forums - not just those with a statutory function. This edition has an article explaining what their Right Care Right Person policy is and how it will operate in practice. The aim of this approach is to

ensure that when there are concerns for a person's welfare linked to health and/or social care, the right person with the right skills, training and experience will be able to respond to provide the best possible service. There have been changes to the risk thresholds for when there are concerns for someone's welfare which mean that police will no longer respond to some situations.

Right Care Right Person is new and no doubt its development will be monitored with interest by the police service and other bodies. I think it would perhaps be useful to invite someone from the Right Care Right Person team at Cheshire Police to attend a future meeting of the Partnership Forum to tell us more about this important change in approach.

There are also lots of other news items, events and updates from Partnership members in this edition – I hope you find it informative and useful.

Trinity Safe Space Charity

In response, by the faith sector in Halton, to the migration of Syrian refugees, people seeking asylum and an increase in numbers of vulnerable migrants into the borough, Trinity Safe Space Widnes began its weekly drop-in in January 2019 with Trinity Safe Space Runcorn following in September 2019. Both are managed by multi-faith volunteers and are now, since becoming a charity in June 2021, overseen by a Board of voluntary Trustees. These are places where beneficiaries meet; communicate with others; improve their English; feel safe, supported and cared for; where many of their needs are met through signposting to external help or through advice and guidance from partner organisations e.g. British Red Cross, where they are given essential items, information about the local area, support to register with health and other services and have the opportunity to socialise.

Our objective is to integrate beneficiaries into the local authority area, services, organisations and communities of Runcorn and Widnes, to make them more independent wherever possible.

During the years 2019-2024, Trinity Safe Space provided many services: two drop-in meetings weekly with refreshments; non-accredited English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) sessions; access to interpretation via A Better Tomorrow and online; help, information and support; signposting to other organisations for example, The British Red Cross, Refugee Women Connect, Healthwatch Halton and Axess Sexual Health – these are key to integrating asylum seekers and refugees into the local authority area, services, organisations and community of Halton. We have given out food, essential items e.g. toiletries, bicycles, furniture, bedding, clothes, shoes, household items, items for babies and countless more, many of which have been donated. Funding received from Halton's Our Halton Community Grant enables us to purchase the services of A Better Tomorrow, Halton to provide interpretation, cultural awareness and support for attendees at both drop ins. A further Our Halton Community Grant was used to provide the non-accredited ESOL sessions in Runcorn and Widnes.

A Better Tomorrow, Halton CIC works in partnership alongside us – as well as the support worker role, Ashraf Hamido one of its Directors, voluntarily helps with interpretation with many tasks which people ask of him and his sharing of knowledge; he is a very valuable and valued asset. Some asylum seekers, granted leave to remain, continue to help as volunteers – building up their skills and self-confidence for future opportunities. Volunteering affords them the opportunity to become more work ready.

Welfare calls and messages are made or sent to contacts regularly by A Better Tomorrow, Halton and Trinity Safe Space volunteers to ensure they are safe and well. Any urgent requests for help are sorted out by us or A Better Tomorrow, Halton quickly. People are referred on, where necessary, to other local organisations e.g. Halton Citizens Advice Bureau.

Safeguarding training has been delivered to Trinity Safe Space volunteers and A Better Tomorrow's Directors, volunteers and the children's parents.

The main vision for ESOL sessions is that all residents for whom English is not a first language, can access high quality English language so that they can acquire the skills to enable them to participate in daily life. These language skills are central to giving people a democratic voice and supporting them to contribute to the society in which they live.

During the pandemic, we became aware that a local hotel was housing large numbers of asylum seekers for much longer periods than normal, as "move-on" accommodation had been scarce, so we worked in partnership with Serco, Migrant Help, the WEA, Halton Borough Council, Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (as was) and Refugee Women Connect, to provide what we could for residents collaboratively, to help improve their emotional health and physical wellbeing. We continue to liaise with partners through strategic groups ensuring we can feed in any comments from residents, to make their lived experience better, and we continue to support some who have moved from the hotel into Halton. We provide some residents with items occasionally and signpost them to sources of information, advice and guidance.

We have over 600 contacts in the borough – many of them come to the Widnes and Runcorn drop-ins at some point during the year; some are frequent attendees either because of their issues and problems, or because they wish to socialise with others and enjoy some company, whereas some only come a few times as their issues are less complex and easier to sort out.

During the period 2022 to early 2024, we have forged productive links with many local organisations through the significant Faith New Deal Funding we received from the Government's Levelling Up, Communities and Housing Department and these have provided our beneficiaries with excellent opportunities for counselling sessions, digital arts activities, world music events, family activities, volunteering placements and have enabled them to mix with a variety of people while enjoying themselves and becoming more confident to try other things on offer. The other people attending have fed back that they also really valued the opportunity to get to know more about people from different countries and cultures, thereby, enhancing community cohesion. These links are continuing this year.

Some issues highlighted

High cost of living – asylum seekers in dispersed accommodation are given just £49.18 a week to live on. Their rent and utilities are paid for.

Barriers to accessing services e.g. language; lack of knowledge of processes and procedures.

First appeals for asylum being refused – people can appeal again, using more evidence, but must let Migrant Help know so they are not evicted.

When people are given leave to remain and given refugee status, BRP (ID) cards not arriving or being incorrect – people should not be evicted until they are their BRP card. Some people have been evicted without having their BRP card. It sometimes takes months for BRP cards to arrive.

Lack of suitable housing for refugees – temporary housing placements are often full with people who are trying to move to more permanent accommodation, which is also in short supply.

Period of time after gaining refugee status when their Aspen card stops, so there is no income coming in, and Universal Credit starts, which could be up to 6 weeks. People have no money and often nowhere to live.

Homelessness – single people are not priority on housing waiting lists unless there are mitigating health or care conditions, so because of the time where they have no income, they may become homeless.

Severe lack of immigration solicitors having capacity to take on legal aid cases, leaving many without legal support.

Serious mental health issues, often caused by trauma and exacerbated by social isolation and living with constant uncertainty about immigration status then housing.

No Recourse to Public Funds – if a person is Appeal Rights Exhausted (ARE) following unsuccessful asylum or immigration claims they are not entitled to any public funds e.g. benefits, housing and they are not allowed to work – they may be able to apply for Section 4 support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 but must satisfy strict conditions.

Article written by Pauline Ruth, Chair of Trustees Trinity Safe Space

Halton Warm Spaces

Please see below details of Halton Warm Spaces available – information correct as of January 2024.

St Andrews Church of England, Grangeway, Runcorn

Wednesday drop-in every Wednesday 12-2pm

Hot drink, chat, soup and roll lunch (free – donation optional)

All welcome

Hope Corner Community Church, 70 Clifton Road, Runcorn, WA7 4TD

We have warm space open 11am – 3pm Monday – Wednesday and Friday most weeks.

The times coincide with the opening times of our small café. For those coming to warm space, we will give discounts on food or in some cases we can give this free on first few visits, depending on individual circumstances.

St Edwards Catholic Church, Ivy Street, Runcorn, WA7 5NZ

On Monday 15th January 2024 1.30pm-2.30pm Knit and Natter meet in the hall at St Edwards, people are most welcome to join them. The group meet alternate Mondays, those attending are invited to donate to meet the costs of tea and biscuits, if they are not able to parish will pick up that cost.

Starting on Tuesday 20th February 2024 from 9.30am – 11.30am, will be a warm space for socialising and refreshments. This will be held weekly.

All Saints Church of England Parish Church, Daresbury

In the Lewis Carroll Centre every 3rd Wednesday of the month 10am – 12pm Crafters Group.

Every Thursday 1.30pm – 4pm Community Drop In. All welcome.

Heath Methodist Church, Vista Road, Runcorn, WA7 4PB

There is a warm space drop in for coffee/tea/toast at The Heath Methodist Church on Thursday mornings 9.30am – 11.30am. Donations – open to all.

There is also a Knitting for Others group which meets in the afternoon from 1.30pm – 3.30pm – a small number of women who meet up to knit things that are requested for the local hospitals such as baby blankets. Refreshments provided. Small donations.



Transform Widnes

Cross Roads Café – St Paul’s Church of England Church, Victoria Square, Widnes
11am – 1pm Tuesdays.

Long Loaf (community meal) St Paul’s Church Hall every Wednesday 12pm – 1pm
(small donation if you have it)

Oasis (refreshments, company and mid-week communion) St John's Church of England Church, Fairfield Road, Widnes every Wednesday 10.30am – 12pm.

Connect Café, St Paul's Church of England Church, Victoria Square, Widnes every Friday 10.30am – 12.30pm

We also provide a parent and toddler group, St Paul's Church of England, Victoria Square, Widnes every Monday 10am – 11.30am.

For more information. Please visit-

<https://www.transformwidnes.church/community-outreach/>

St Ambrose Church of England Church, Halton View Road, Widnes

There is a Sanctuary event every Wednesday morning, it starts at 10.30am for about an hour. Hot drinks, cakes, crafts and games are available.

Halton Libraries

Halton libraries will be offering warm welcome spaces every day during all opening hours which includes comfortable seating, charging access, friendly staff to chat if preferred or support and signposting, board games and jigsaws, colouring in, free computer access.

Each weekday different library sites will be hosting a coffee morning providing free tea and coffee or water running from 10am – 12pm:

- Monday - Ditton Library, Queens Avenue, Widnes WA8 8HR.
- Tuesday - Halton Lea Library, Runcorn Shopping City, Runcorn. WA7 2PF.
- Wednesday - Halton Lea Library, Runcorn Shopping City, Runcorn. WA7 2PF.
- Thursday - Widnes Library, Victoria Square, Widnes. WA8 7QY.
- Friday - Runcorn Library, Granville Street, Runcorn. WA7 1NE.

Right Care Right Person

Right Care Right Person is an operating model designed to ensure that when there are concerns for a person's welfare linked to health and/or social care, the right person with the right skills, training and experience will respond to provide the best possible service.

The model was developed by Humberside Police and is being rolled out nationally. It is currently being implemented across Cheshire using a phased approach.

Protecting the public, especially those who are vulnerable, will always be a core role of policing and this will be at the centre of any decisions that Cheshire Police make about incidents reported. However, Police Officers are often left looking after people with mental health or social care needs who require specialist medical care that

officers from Cheshire Police cannot provide. The police will of course still be required to attend some incidents alongside medical or mental health workers and Cheshire Constabulary is fully committed to protecting people where there is an immediate risk to life or a risk of serious harm.

Phase 1 relates to Concern for Welfare and went live in Cheshire on Monday 8th January 2024.

Further phases relating to the management of mental health and missing persons will be implemented at a later stage.



What is Concern for Welfare?

In its simplest form it is concern for a person or group of people expressed by another person or partner agency. Those concerns are made directly or indirectly to the police in the expectation that the police will assume responsibility and legal liability for those people and seek to mitigate or minimise any apparent risk posed. This will usually present as a request made via the Force Control Room for a welfare check or visit to be made.

What is the change that you need to be aware of?

The Police will only attend a Concern for Welfare call for service if it is deemed:

- An immediate threat to life or serious harm
- A crime is reported
- Partnership staff are in danger of death or serious harm
- Police action is required to prevent a child from suffering significant harm

Unless this threshold is reached the Police have no duty to act.

Referral Pathways

Cheshire Police will no longer act as incident co-ordinators for partners or the public; instead people will be asked to call other service providers who are best placed to respond to the person's needs. Cheshire Police will signpost callers to the local authority referral hubs listed on their website: www.cheshire.police.uk/rcrp

For more information:

The Right Care Right Person Team at Cheshire Constabulary can be contacted at the following email address: rightcare.rightperson@cheshire.police.uk

The team shares regular information bulletins – please do contact them to add your name to the list if you are interested in keeping up to date with further developments.

Meetings are also being held at a strategic and tactical level and there is senior manager representation from Halton within these groups.

Information Updates from Partnership Forum Members

Policy Brief

Mark Swift from Wellbeing Enterprises has co-authored a policy brief by the Heseltine Institute on improving outcomes for children and young people at risk of or living with conduct disorders and their families/carers.

The policy brief was informed by work undertaken here in Halton in partnership with Runcorn PCN and is part of an NHS Funded Initiative called Complete Care Community.

If you would like to read the policy brief in full, the article can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/publicpolicyamppractice/pbseries3/PB311,com bined.pdf>

Halton Disability Partnership

Halton Disability Partnership (HDP) was founded in 2010 to support people with disabilities or mental health needs in accessing support and care that fully reflects their choice and wishes. We manage a register of Personal Assistants (PAs) in health and social care. Pas are managed by HDP.

As well as facilitating real choice for people, HDP has systems in place to ensure people who may be vulnerable are safeguarded from exploitation or abuse.

All our PA's are DBS checked and access Safeguarding Adult "Alerter" Training. All concerns are reported to our in house qualified Safeguarding Lead. For further information regarding the service, please contact John Abbott on **01928 248937**



Dignity Action Day

Dignity Action Day took place on 1st February 2024. The theme for this event was **Making the Invisible Visible**. The Dignity in Care Network held a web event which looked at three perspectives:

1. CQC talked about their Share for Better Care Campaign, an initiative with Healthwatch to ensure that people have the chance to share their experiences, both good and bad of receiving support
2. Alex Lewney talked about how he had worked with individuals with neuro-divergence to identify how they defined community and what made a positive community for them, this included a wonderful story where Malcom joined Alex to talk about a trip to the USA to visit Graceland
3. Liz Taylor talked about the role of unpaid carers and some of the issues associated with being an unpaid carer.

The discussion afterwards included lots of personal comments from those present, as well as some ideas about how people's voices could be heard. It was a very thought provoking event and gave everyone present a different perspective.

To watch a recording of the event, please use the following link:

[Making the Invisible Visible - Events - Dignity in Care](#)



Upcoming Safeguarding Events and Training

SAB Training 2024 / 25

The HSAB Training Programme for 2024 / 25 can be found at the below link:

<https://adult.haltonsafeguarding.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/HSAB-training-programme.pdf>

Or can be accessed from this attachment:



HSAB training
programme 2024-25

This is **free** safeguarding training. What is available over the next few months is listed below and can be accessed via the Eventbrite link below:

Bookings can be made through:

<http://haltonsafeguardingadultsboard.eventbrite.com/>



Safeguarding Adults: Awareness and Responsibilities:

Thursday 7th March 2024, 5.00pm-8.00pm
Thursday 23rd May 2024, 9.30am – 12.30pm
Thursday 20th June 2024, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Grangeway Youth and Community Centre,
Runcorn



Financial Abuse:

Wednesday 12th June 2024, 9.30am – 12.30pm
Tuesday 2nd July 2024, 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Grangeway Youth and Community Centre,
Runcorn



Provider-led Concerns and Enquiries – Local Policy and Procedure:

Tuesday 18th June 2024, 9.30am – 12.30pm
Thursday 11th July 2024, 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Grangeway Youth & Community Centre • Runcorn



Self-Neglect Awareness:

Tuesday 23rd April 2024, 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday 19th June 2024, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Grangeway Youth & Community Centre • Runcorn



Mental Capacity Act – Working with Capacity:

Tuesday 16th July 2024, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Grangeway Youth & Community Centre • Runcorn

Upcoming Dates to Note

March	Zero Discrimination Day	1 st March	United Nations	Zero Discrimination Day
	Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day	18 th March	Stop CSE	National Child Exploitation Awareness Day
	International day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	21 st March	United Nations	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination United Nations
	National Day of Reflection	23 rd March	Marie Curie	National Day of Reflection Marie Curie
April	World Autism Day	2 April	United Nations	World Autism Awareness Day - EN United Nations
	National Stalking Awareness Week	24 th – 28 th April	Suzy Lamplugh Trust	Suzy Lamplugh Trust
May	Mental Health Awareness Week	13 th – 19 th May	Mental Health Foundation	Mental Health Awareness Week Mental Health Foundation
	International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia	17 th May	United Nations	United Nations Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet
	Dementia Action Week	20 th – 26 th May	Alzheimer's Society	Dementia Action Week Alzheimer's Society (alzheimers.org.uk)