



## Disabled Children's Service – Short Breaks Service



### Newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

This newsletter contains events and updates from various services around Halton and also other general information which you may find useful.

#### ❖ **OPEN 360 RUNCORN DIGITAL HUB:**

This programme is to support Participants who are 19 years or older, to learn and improve their digital skills and future employability.

## Open 360 The Runcorn Digital Hub Tackling the Digital Divide

**We believe that Digital Inclusion is Social Inclusion**



**The Runcorn Digital Hub is an approach to engage with local residents who want learn basic IT skills and require access to digital devices/Wi-Fi.**

**Our aim is to prepare and equip Participants for the new 'normal', tackle the digital divide and new/emerging barriers since Covid-19.**

**We shall help Participants with maintaining motivation, resilience and connection to digital learning experiences.**

**All learning activities will be flexible to suit individual Participant's needs, ability & pace.**

**Participants will have improved well-being, become less isolated and realise prospects for future employability during this programme.**

## PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

### Motivational Tools

Practical toolkits & resources for Participants(exercises/group-activities)  
Introducing the DREAM approach (Dedication-Responsibility-Education-Attitude-Motivation) to learning  
Confidence-building  
Social integration  
Introducing the SOAR principles (Strengths-Opportunities-Aspirations-Results)

### Money Management & Budgeting Skills

Tackling practical barriers & financial uncertainty from Covid-19  
Debt and wellbeing, budget awareness, greater caring responsibilities  
Income/expenditure planning, 'spending diaries'

### Support with up-to-date information on Universal Credit/Benefits

How to navigate terminology, myth-busting approaches, effective use of online UC accounts

### Journey to a Job

Help with good CV design/updated and effective Cover Letter  
Using social media to gain employment & how to create effective profiles/accounts  
Support with job search and apply for jobs  
Work-skills training around teamwork, time-keeping and communication skills  
1-2-1 support/job specs/interview preparation  
Free access to mobile-phone every session (contact Work Coach/employers/recruiters)

### Digital Inclusion is Social Inclusion

Help with basic IT skills  
Support to learn new digital skills or simply refresh and update your existing skills?  
Opportunity for residents living on their own who would like to learn with some company  
Helping residents to connect with friends and loved ones using video communication platforms such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams if required to support children with homework  
Supporting Participants also in the everyday use of common digital devices (laptops, tablets, smart-phones)  
We will support Participants to navigate digital tools safely (internet, online payments, benefits systems, utilities, price comparisons etc).

### Project Timescales

Start date – Friday 22nd October and every week  
Finish date – Friday 25th March 2022  
Project hours – 1pm to 4pm

### Project Venue

Castlefields Community Centre - Village Square, Castlefields, Runcorn, WA7 2ST

### Contact Details

Mobile: 07392 683385  
E-mail: [info@open360.co.uk](mailto:info@open360.co.uk)



## ❖ RECHARGING FAMILIES SESSIONS:

These sessions run by Recharge and Restore aim to create a safe environment where children can play, be creative etc. while parents can chat, get some peer support etc. One session is for parents only where they offer short stress resolution sessions - this is daytime 12-2.

First meeting for parents and children is Thursday 21 October from 6-7.30, flyer also attached. Next meeting for parents/carers only is Thursday 11 November from 12-2.



The flyer has a blue background. At the top, a dark blue banner contains the text 'Recharging Families' and 'Engaging, Connecting and Educating'. Below this, the text 'FIRST SESSION' is written diagonally in white. To the right, the date and time 'Thursday 21 October 6-7.30pm' are displayed in dark blue. A circular inset photo shows children playing with colorful blocks. Below the date, a dark blue box contains white text describing the session's purpose and logistics. To the right of this box is a photo of a bowl of cookies and a cup of coffee. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains white text with contact information. Logos for 'Recharge & Restore' and 'HALTON' are at the very bottom.

**Recharging Families**  
Engaging, Connecting and Educating

**FIRST SESSION**

**Thursday 21 October**  
**Culture HQ, Halton Lea**  
**6-7.30pm**

For families of children with registered or unregistered challenges and/or who would appreciate some peer support and connect with other families

Think about what you need or would like from a group and bring your ideas!

Children can play, be creative, enjoy our sensory space while parents/carers have a cuppa together

Please park on Trident Retail Park and walk through Shopping City to Culture HQ as car parks close before 7.30.

***This is a pilot project till December***  
***Come along and let us know what you need or want***

**IF YOU DO NEED MORE INFORMATION**  
**CALL/TEXT 07808 160315 OR 07533 044283**



❖ **MAKO CREATE:**

Youth Project Activities for ages 10-16:



Book Here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/video-game-design-with-mako-create-7-week-halton-youth-project-registration-191151137197>

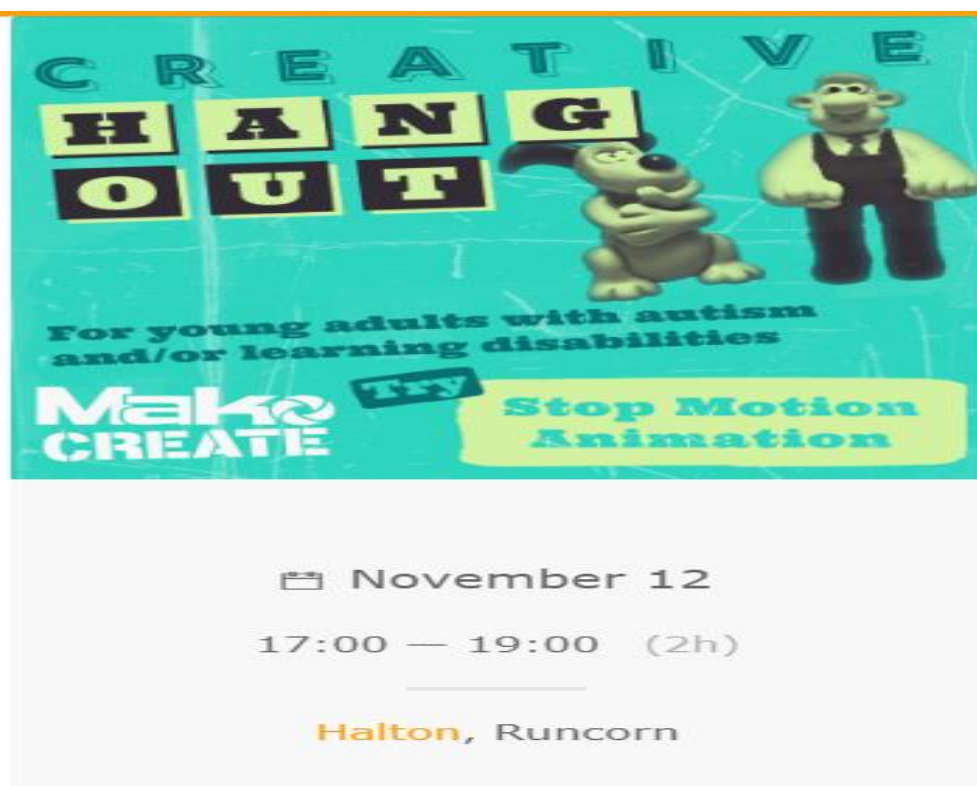


Book Here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/filmmaking-with-mako-create-7-week-halton-youth-project-registration-191146784177>

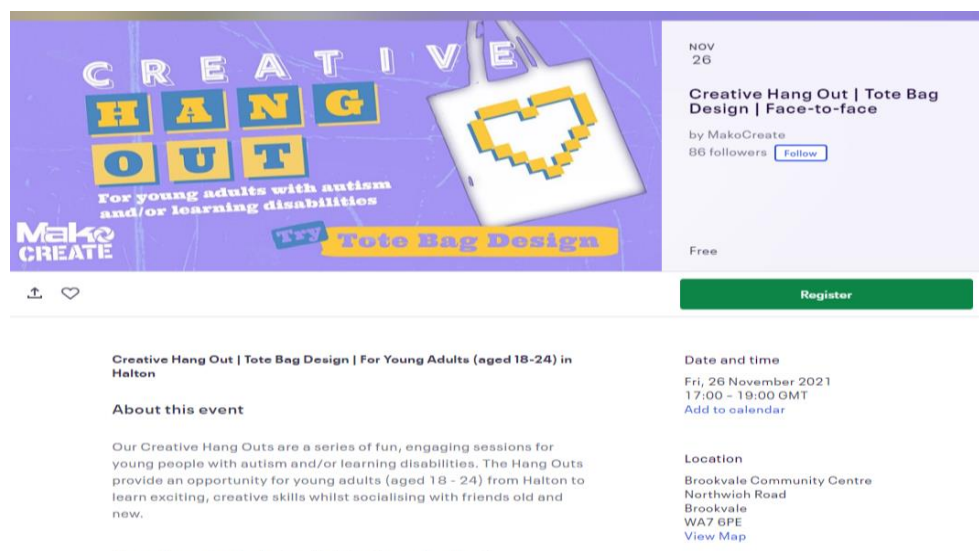
**Courses for Aged 19 years old and over:**

Anyone in Halton aged 19+, who is currently unemployed and has a legal right to work in the UK is eligible to sign up, and we're also delighted to offer a **£30 Amazon voucher to every participant who completes a course.** There are currently *Photo Editing Basics*, *Website Design Basics* and *Design for Digital Marketing* Courses taking place online and in-person.

Sessions for young adults (aged 18-24) with autism and/or learning disabilities:



Book Here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creative-hang-out-stop-motion-animation-face-to-face-tickets-183290194907>



Book Here: [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creative-hang-out-tote-bag-design-face-to-face-tickets-183299633137?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&utm\\_source=MakoCreate%27s+Mailing+List&utm\\_campaign=e5278a6dac-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_08\\_18\\_01\\_19\\_COPY\\_02&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_bc6df7b78e-e5278a6dac-372863870&mc\\_cid=e5278a6dac&mc\\_eid=407441f7b9](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/creative-hang-out-tote-bag-design-face-to-face-tickets-183299633137?aff=ebdsoporgprofile&utm_source=MakoCreate%27s+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=e5278a6dac-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_08_18_01_19_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bc6df7b78e-e5278a6dac-372863870&mc_cid=e5278a6dac&mc_eid=407441f7b9)

❖ **MOTIV8 SPORTS:** -\*This is only available for those receiving short Breaks\*



**Motiv8Sports**  
Academic Innovation

# ART COURSE

**6 week ART COURSE**  
Sat 13th Nov 2021 to Sat 18th Dec 2021  
10am - 3pm

**10yr to 17yr old**

**VENUE - SHOPPING CITY, RUNCORN, WA7 2EU**

As part of Halton Council Short Breaks for SEND children and young people, we are providing a 6 week art course for, new, experienced and enthusiastic artists who want to learn new art skills alongside professional artist John Charles. All participants will also gain AQA Awards for the range of various skills they showcase throughout the course.

To book a place email Liz  
liz@motiv8sportsltd.co.uk  
Motiv8Sports Ltd  
www.motiv8sportsltd.co.uk

❖ **HALTON PLAY COUNCIL JOB VACANCY:**

## Halton Play Council Short Break Service

Halton Play Council are looking to recruit enthusiastic, motivated SEN Playworkers for our Short Break Services across Runcorn and Widnes. These services are for Children/Young people aged 4 to 18 to meet in a social environment—activities are age appropriate and include play activities, youth activities and life skills.

We have various vacancies across our services in the following venues:

Our Widnes based After School service Thursdays 3.15 to 6.15pm.

Our Saturday under 8s service 10am to 12 noon

(This operates in both Widnes and Runcorn applicants are welcome to apply for just one location)

We are also looking to recruit bank staff across all our services

If you are interested in any of the above posts and would like

an application form or further information,

please contact us on haltonplaycouncil@gmail.com or call 07812914310



❖ DEAFNESS RESOURCE CENTRE CHRISTMAS MARKET:



**Sat 20th November**  
**12pm—4pm**

Deafness Resource Centre  
32-40 Dentons Green Lane, St Helens, WA10 2QB

For more information contact :

Email : [Enquiries@deafnessresourcecentre.org](mailto:Enquiries@deafnessresourcecentre.org)



❖ **FOR THOSE WHO WILL BE PURCHASING FIREWORKS THIS BONFIRE NIGHT:**



Office for Product Safety & Standards

**Don't get burnt**

**Purchase fireworks from reputable retailers.**

✓ Ensure they have the CE or UKCA mark.

2021

❖ **WARNING ISSUED ABOUT SAFE FIRE SURROUNDS/UNSECURED FURNITURE/TELEVISIONS:**

RoSPA and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have promoted the importance of safe installation of modular, stone or artificial stone fireplace surrounds following the death of a four-year-old child, who was killed when a fireplace surround fell on him.

Having a fireplace surround installed safely in the home by a professional can often be overlooked during home improvement projects, but for families with children in particular, this could prevent an easily preventable injury or death in the home from the surround toppling on top of a youngster.

Individual components of these fireplaces can weigh more than 50kgs and unless fitted in a secure manner, this makes the mantel, in particular, liable to topple off the lintel.

**Advice**

RoSPA's advice when buying one of these products is to:

- Seek professional advice BEFORE buying the product. Get assurance that the product you intend to buy is suitable and safe for your home
- Get quotes for the fireplace surround AND fitting in advance. Ensure that the combined cost is within your price range
- Get the fireplace surround fitted by a professional.



❖ **FOREST SCHOOL @ CAFT:**

## ALL OUT *adventure* Forest School @ CAFT



**WINTER** Forest school sessions @ CAFT

If you have a child with ASD ADHD or a learning difficulty and you would like to join these **FREE** winter forest school sessions, please email [forestschool@caft.co.uk](mailto:forestschool@caft.co.uk)

**What families say ...**

'I would highly recommend this to any parent'.

Being able to attend the sessions as a family in a safe and inclusive environment was an invaluable experience'.



Morning sessions for new starters 10- 12.30 Afternoon sessions for returning families 1- 3.30

**Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup> WET WET WET**  
Adventures with water

**Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup> MAGIC MUFTIME**  
Prepare to get down and dirty

**Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup> FIRE and LIGHT**  
Treats around the campfire

Registered Charity Number 1003675  
<https://caft.co.uk>

\*This newsletter provides general information and resources, though not all of it will be relevant to everyone included in the mailing list. If there is some specific information you would like to see more of, or information from a certain service please let me know and I will try to include next time. If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please email:

[Victoria.Meadows@halton.gov.uk](mailto:Victoria.Meadows@halton.gov.uk)

Disabled Children's Service  
Halton Borough Council

For information about services visit the [Halton Local Offer](#) website

### Halton Local Offer



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