

**We want to hear your views about Health & Social Care in Wirral - Listen. Connect. Share.**

### **BRIDGE Forum notes for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025 11am – 12:30pm**

The purpose of [BRIDGE Forum](#) is to come together to share updates, themes, and regular information about Wirral Health & Social Care services, giving a voice to all sectors. A place that is shared with Community, Health & Social Care representatives.

if you'd like to join-in, share information, receive [BRIDGE Forum notes](#) or speak at future meetings, or want to know more about the BRIDGE Forum, which takes place monthly each second Wednesday, please email us [spare5@healthwatchwirral.co.uk](mailto:spare5@healthwatchwirral.co.uk).

#### **Guest Speakers**

- 1. Annie Grady- SENDLO Officer, Wirral Council** - services offered include advice and support of care, early years, education, health and wellbeing, lifestyle, transport and preparation for adulthood. Annie also told us about the launch of the Wirral Neurodiversity Hub, which will offer early help and identification for support:
  - There will be many resources to help everyone find the right support for Families seeking information to support a child's and their own needs at home, available for their wider family too, including topics like 'Preparing Your Child for Adulthood' and 'Parent Space'.
  - Information for schools on reasonable adjustments.
  - Teenagers will have their own 'Teenage Zone' in most sections, covering friendships, siblings, life as a young carer, and more.
  - Young adults will have a section 'My Independent Life', with information on healthcare, money, and living at home.
  - Sign up to receive news and updates.  
[SENDLO Wirral](#) [anniegrady@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:anniegrady@wirral.gov.uk)
- 2. Nicola Connor- Participation and Engagement Lead, [Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)** – Nicola summarised the services offered at [The Stein Centre](#):
  - Wirral Access Service - a single point of access (SPA) to adult secondary Mental Health services in Wirral.
  - Complex Needs Team
  - Early Intervention Team
  - Homeless/Outreach support
  - Adult Home Treatment Team
  - Emergency food parcels and fuel support

- Ask Us Wirral terminal (online help) via Citizens Advice Wirral
- Reception space for engagement
- Sensory room.



Service PP 2025  
(003).pptx

[nicola.connor6@nhs.net](mailto:nicola.connor6@nhs.net)

**3. Nicholas Lynch- Wirral Community Engagement Ambassador, Barclays Bank** ran through his role as Community Engagement Ambassador; to reach out to communities and initiatives across the peninsula to improve financial wellbeing and stay safe online by running sessions from budgeting to fraud and scam awareness and help people build good habits and understand money.

- Fraud and Scams
- Money Skills
- Life skills
- Budgeting
- Money Mules
- Cost of Living
- Employability Support
- Credit building
- Online Privacy
- Keeping Kids Safe Online

All 45-60 minute in-person sessions are free.

[nicholas.lynch@barclays.com](mailto:nicholas.lynch@barclays.com)

<https://www.wirralinfobank.co.uk/Services/4622/Community-Engagement>

**4. Lynda Appleton- Senior Researcher, The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS**

**Foundation Trust-** promoting their [Carers study](#) exploring views and experiences of unpaid Carers (often a family member or friend) who have long-term health conditions and who provide support to a person with cancer.

- The main aim of the [study](#) is to understand how family or friends manage their health and well-being when supporting a person with cancer; the coping strategies and support systems they use on a day-to-day basis and what can be done to better support Carers.
- The findings from the [study](#) will help to better support family or friends in their Caring role.

If anyone would be interested in taking part, or knows anyone, contact Lynda.



Study advert v.1.1 24 April 2025.pdf



PIS - Carer v.1.2 01 Nov 2024.pdf

[lynda.appleton@nhs.net](mailto:lynda.appleton@nhs.net)

## 5. Debra Seery- Specialist Pelvic Health Assistant Practitioner, [Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust's Perinatal Pelvic Health Service](#) –

highlighting the [Perinatal Pelvic Health Service](#) programme.

The Perinatal Pelvic Health Service is part of the Cheshire and Merseyside programme aimed to improve access to perinatal pelvic health services and provide education around managing pelvic health, with a dedicated team delivering 1-1 clinics and classes at sites across the Wirral.

- From referral date, contact aim is within 6 weeks. They aim to see pregnant persons as soon as possible (typically 2-3 weeks).
- They offer advice and support on managing symptoms independently, with personalised exercises and treatments to help optimise symptoms.
- Treatment can include pelvic floor muscle exercises (Kegels), bladder training, tips to improve bowel function, relaxation and pain management, functional movement, and core strengthening.
- Classes for pregnant persons with pelvic girdle pain (SPD), including information on how to manage at home.
- Birth injuries such as 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree tearing require specialist support early after delivery. Once referred into the service, contact will be via telephone asap to provide initial advice and support in managing symptoms, and face-to-face assessment from 6-weeks after delivery.



Midwife  
presentation in pow

## 6. Liz Greer- Adviser for Partners in Care & Health, [Local Government Association-](#)

shared information for their [online survey](#) about barriers to sharing data around unpaid Carers between partners in local Health & Care Systems.

Liz shared [survey code](#) . The survey closes on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025.



[liz.greer@local.gov.uk](mailto:liz.greer@local.gov.uk)

[https://research.local.gov.uk/jfe/form/SV\\_5pPFNWsnnQw66k6](https://research.local.gov.uk/jfe/form/SV_5pPFNWsnnQw66k6)

**7. Yunus Mogra- Patient Engagement Manager, [North West Ambulance Service](#) shared updates:**

- Neurodiversity App- looking to develop & launch soon.
- Nwas team is available for engagement opportunities to speak to patient groups & support groups.
- PTS contract is up for renewal, update due end March 2026.
- Resource Escalation Action Plan (REAP) is presently at level 2

<https://www.nwas.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/BoD-Agenda-Pack-final-26.03.25.pdf> - a high level indicating that the service is under extreme pressure.

**AOB- Information sharing, updates and news.**

1. Wirral Mencap is hosting a Dog Show on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September at Vale Park, New Brighton, 11:00am - 3:00pm, free admission,



2. Wirral Mencap is hosting a comedy night on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Tranmere Rovers FC.



3. **Healthwatch Wirral** has joined colleagues across England to promote a [national petition](#) to protect the independence of local voices in Health and Care. We're encouraging as many people as possible to sign to show their support. The petition, '**Review decision to abolish independent local Healthwatch**', asks the UK Government to:

- Revisit its decision to remove independent local services that advocate for the public

<https://healthwatchwirral.sharepoint.com/Shared Documents/Community E/BRIDGE Forum/2025/Sep 2025/BRIDGE Forum Notes 10 September 2025.docx>

- Consult with the public to co-design a service that meets their needs and supports NHS ambitions
- Invest in and strengthen independent services



Last month, the Dash Patient Safety Review was published. Its recommendations have been incorporated into the NHS 10-Year Health Plan, including proposals to transfer the functions of local Healthwatch into NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and local authorities. This is despite the review acknowledging: *“Healthwatch, while not solely a patient safety organisation, plays a crucial role in promoting patient safety by amplifying patient voices. Since 2013, Healthwatch has made a significant impact, aiding over a million people annually to voice their concerns and access advice.”*

Very few local Healthwatch organisations were consulted, and it’s deeply concerning that patients and the public, the people we serve, were not invited to share their views. This undermines the government’s stated aim of placing “greater emphasis on the patient voice.”

**Karen Prior, CEO of Healthwatch Wirral, commented:** *“For over a decade, Healthwatch Wirral has been a trusted space where people can safely share their experiences. While the NHS 10-Year Plan outlines ambitions for gathering the voices of patients, it’s deeply concerning that the public, the very people we serve, were not consulted. We urge decision-makers to listen, engage with the public, and co-design a future model that protects every person’s voice.”*

Healthwatch Wirral provides independent information and advice, helping people find support, understand their rights, and navigate NHS and social care systems. This is especially vital for those who are vulnerable or unsure where to turn.

We are concerned that proposals to collect feedback solely through digital tools like the NHS App cannot replicate the depth of engagement that Healthwatch provides. This risks excluding digitally excluded groups and those facing health inequalities, people who may never be heard without proactive outreach.

Our independence allows people to speak freely and honestly. Without it, trust is lost, and feedback may go unheard.

We urge you to [sign the petition](#) and share it with colleagues, friends and your communities.

Please remember that your signature won't be added until you've clicked the link to sign the petition in the email you'll receive from *Petitions: UK Government and Parliament*, [no-reply@petition.parliament.uk](mailto:no-reply@petition.parliament.uk).

Thank you for your support.

#### 4. Living Well Service Schedule

See below for the remaining [NHS Living Well Service](#) summer campaign dates, including two additional sessions on 23 and 24 Sept.

The clinical team will be offering [all routine vaccinations](#) to eligible adults and children, as well as health checks and wellbeing conversations.

Date	Location	Clinic Times
Thurs 11 Sep	Wirral Change, St Laurence's School, St Laurence Drive, Birkenhead, CH41 3JD	10:30-16:00
Weds 17 Sep	South Wirral Family Hub, The Bungalow, Grove Street Primary School, Grove Street, New Ferry, CH62 5BA	10:30-16:00
Tues 23 Sep	Birkenhead Town Centre, St Werburgh's Square, Grange Precinct, Birkenhead, CH41 2XY	10:30-16:00
Weds 24 Sep	Birkenhead Town Centre, St Werburgh's Square, Grange Precinct, Birkenhead, CH41 2XY	10:30-16:00

#### 5. Community Health Market Event

An exciting Community Health Market Event hosted by Wirral University Teaching Hospital, Wirral Community Health and Care, and Wirral Multicultural Organisation is being held on **Tuesday 16 September, starting at 10am, at the Wirral Multicultural Community Hub, 111 Conway Street, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 4AF.**

This is a great opportunity to visit a variety of health market stalls to access free healthcare advice and support available in Wirral in a welcoming informal space. The aim is to help bridge the gap in healthcare access for ethnic minority communities in Wirral. There will be information available to take home or download in a variety of different languages as well as language translators being present on site.

See a short, animated information video about the event in this link <https://we.tl/t-IOi3LTu3zN>



Please share information about this event with anyone you think may be interested or would benefit from attending.

### Upcoming BRIDGE Forum Dates in 2025:

Weds 08 Oct

Weds 12 Nov

Weds 10 Dec

Healthwatch Wirral  
Liscard Business Centre,  
The Old School House,  
188 Liscard Road,  
Wallasey, Merseyside  
CH44 5TN

Spare 5 BRIDGE Forum

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