

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

BRIDGE Forum notes for Wednesday 12th November 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.

Guest Speakers

1. Michelle Watson, Michelle Leatherbarrow, The Wirral Breast Centre - Wirral and Chester Breast Screening Programme.

Michelle and Michelle gave us an overview of the services offered at The Wirral Breast Centre at Clatterbridge Hospital and The Breast Centre at the Countess of Chester Hospital.

- Anyone that's registered as a female with their GP Practice and is aged between the age of 50 and 7, will be automatically invited for the NHS breast screening every three years.
- Women over the age of 71 are no longer automatically invited for breast screening, but The Breast Screening Service encourages all women of any age to self-refer.
- They gave a brief overview of the national data, with Wirral and Chester remaining just above the national target of 70% for people attending screening.
- From April to June 2025, a mobile breast screening unit was sited at Cheshire Oaks Shopping Outlet. This was really successful, and during the time the screening mobile unit was there they detected 21 cancers in people being screened. They are carrying out a patient satisfactory survey about this mobile screening site and to date have received 308 responses. 99% of these responses found the site convenient for them, and 93% rated the service as excellent.
- They have been working with women with learning disabilities, and with the local Community Learning Disability Nurses, to produce a Breast Screening Awareness Show for visiting Learning Disability Day Centres across Wirral.
- The Service is working with GP Practices to raise awareness of breast screening and have been implementing extensive social media communications for sharing on GP Practices' social media channels, and video films have been created for showing in GP Practice waiting areas.

2. Ruth Parrot, Dementia Advisor, [Alzheimer's Society](#).

Ruth is a Dementia Advisor on the Wirral and shared details of the services offered by the Alzheimer's Society and Dementia Connect which is a personalised support service for anyone with dementia, their Carers, family and friends.

Dementia Connect can:

- Help with legal documents and Lasting Power of Attorney.
- Advise on how to cope living with dementia through information publications.
- Offer further connections to local dementia groups.
- Offer tips for making homes more dementia friendly.
- Support via phone, online or face-to face.

Referral is by self-referral, or a GP Practice can refer people into the service; following referral, an advisor will usually get in touch within a week.

Locally, the Wirral Dementia Advice Service is available and has Dementia Advisors who will be a contact throughout a person's journey with dementia - offering support both before and after a diagnosis and access to long-term support as a person's needs change. They also offer online support through their Dementia Support Forum, which is a helpful online community where anyone who is affected by dementia can receive valuable support. It is free, open 24/7, and can be accessed via their website.

To contact the Wirral Dementia Advice Service:

Tel 0151 420 8198 or 07906744131

Email: wirral@alzheimers.org.uk .

The [National Dementia Support Line](#) is open 9am-8pm Monday to Wednesday, 9am-5pm Thursday and Friday and 10am-4pm Saturday and Sunday, Tel 0333 150 3456.



3. Daryl Williams, Public Health Officer, Public Health Delivery Team - Updates on winter vaccines.

Daryl shared details of the NHS Winter Vaccination Programme 2025/26 and explained about the vaccinations offered:

- Flu, Covid-19, RSV
- Flu vaccination and eligibility
- At-risk groups

<https://healthwatchwirral.sharepoint.com/Shared Documents/Community E/BRIDGE Forum/2025/Nov 2025/BRIDGE Forum Notes 12 Nov 25.docx>

- Those eligible may be invited by the NHS, but people do not need to wait for an invite to get a vaccine.
- If you haven't yet heard from your GP Practice, contact them to book your flu vaccine appointment
- Alternatively, there are other places where you can book your vaccine:
- You can book your flu vaccinations on the NHS App, or book online at www.nhs.uk/bookflu
- Can't get online? - call 119.
- In addition, The Living Well Service is visiting a range of locations across Wirral, click on [the link to find dates The Living Well Service: Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#) - no appointment needed.
- If you are not eligible for a free NHS flu vaccination, you can pay privately at any participating pharmacy.
- Read more on winter vaccines and how to book at www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations
- Information is available for pregnant women, 2–3-year-olds, school-age programme, people with learning disabilities and their Carers, Health and Social Care workers.
- If you're eligible for the winter COVID-19 vaccine, a COVID-19 vaccination appointment can be booked online or in the NHS App (for aged 5 years or over).
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a major cause of respiratory illness and is particularly dangerous for infants and the elderly. The virus can lead to pneumonia and infant bronchiolitis, requiring hospitalisation and intensive care in severe cases.
- The RSV vaccine offers huge opportunities to prevent severe illness in those most vulnerable to RSV, helping to protect lives and ease winter pressures for the NHS.
- The RSV vaccine is offered free through the NHS to pregnant women from 28 weeks, and to adults aged 75 to 79, and to those who turned 80 after 1st September 2024.



Winter Vaccine
25-26 Healthwatch fo

4. **Lottie Shaw**, [Wirral Carers Alliance](#).

Lottie from Wirral Carers Alliance shared with us details of the vision, values and strategy of the Wirral Carers Alliance (WCA) as well as the six Carer Principles.

The WCA have organised so far:

- 22 in-person Carer forums.
- 9 online forums.
- 5 Carer Consortium meetings.
- The Commitment to Carers Conference.
- Participation in 'All age disabilities' thematic groups.
- WCA Carer session feedback

In- person Carer Forum engagement sessions are planned for the future with WCA Carer themes.

WCA has introduced Carer Consortium meetings which are held on the last Thursday of every month. Anyone wanting to join their meetings can contact Lottie, [WCA](#), for further details.

There is an opportunity to attend the 'Know Your Rights, Use Your Rights' Workshop on Thursday 20th November 2025. To attend, please email info@wirralcarersalliance.org.uk

AOB- Information sharing, updates and news.

1. National Safeguarding Adults week is taking place this year between Monday 17th and Friday 21st November. Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board and colleagues across Merseyside have organised a number of online sessions across the week, all of which are free to join. Some require you to prebook a ticket and those are noted on the flyer attached below. It would be greatly appreciated if you could circulate this across your organisations and wider networks and encourage staff to attend. All sessions are online and about 1 hour in length.



2. Dementia Together are organising a Christmas Carol Concert on Tuesday 4th December 2025 at Parkgate & Neston United Reformed Church, See poster for more information.



3. Ahmed Haruna, [Wirral Multicultural Organisation \(WMO\)](#), told us that the **Health Marketplace Event** held at WMO in September was a great success, with people from approximately 68 ethnic minority groups attending. Issues affecting access to healthcare for ethnic minority groups was highlighted during the event. Healthwatch Wirral team members attended.

The final BRIDGE Forum date in 2025 is Weds 10 Dec

Forthcoming BRIDGE Forum dates in 2026:

14 Jan	11 Feb	11 Mar	08 Apr	13 May	10 Jun
08 Jul	12 Aug	09 Sep	14 Oct	11 Nov	09 Dec.

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

Spare 5 BRIDGE Forum

Tel: 0151 230 8957

Email: Spare5@healthwatchwirral.co.uk

Website: www.healthwatchwirral.co.uk

