

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

BRIDGE Forum notes for Wednesday 14th January 2026 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. Mark King OBE, Oliver King Foundation.

Mark founded the Oliver King Foundation in 2012 following the tragic death of his 12-year-old son Oliver. Oliver died from Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome, a hidden heart condition which kills 12 young people every week. Oliver attended King David High School in Liverpool and suffered a cardiac arrest whilst taking part in a swimming race.

The tragic loss of Oliver sparked a commitment to change. Access to defibrillators and proper CPR training could mean the difference between life and death for countless people. Too many lives were being lost because of the lack of awareness, equipment, and preparation in critical moments.

With this understanding, the foundation set out to achieve the following goals:

- Installing defibrillators in public spaces such as schools, sports facilities, and community centres, so that life-saving equipment is always within reach when it's needed most.
- Delivering CPR and first aid training to empower individuals to act quickly and confidently in emergencies, increasing the chance of survival for those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest.
- Raising awareness about the importance of heart health and how communities can come together to prevent unnecessary loss of life. Oliver King Foundation was established in January 2012 with a mission to prevent such tragedies.
- Since the foundation was established, significant strides have been made in making communities safer. Thousands of defibrillators have been installed in public spaces, thousands of people have been trained in life-saving CPR techniques, and they have worked to ensure that schools and organisations have the resources they need to respond to cardiac emergencies.

- To date, the Oliver King Foundation has put over 7,000 defibrillators across the country. Mark has delivered every one of them personally. They have trained over 120,000 people to use them, and 92 lives have been saved.
- The Oliver King Foundation has a bold vision for the future, to open their own ECG testing centre, providing essential heart health screenings for young people, particularly students and athletes, to detect potential heart conditions before they become life-threatening.

<https://www.theoliverkingfoundation.co.uk/>

2. Tony Probbing, WUTHFT- Associate Director of Allied Health Professionals, Divisional Lead for Corporate Nursing.

Tony gave us some updates on Arrowe Park Hospital, the ongoing building works, and the situation at the Emergency Department.

- WUTH are now onto Phase 3 of the re-build, planned to be completed by this time next year.
- The Emergency Department (ED) is fragmented at the moment; it's split across the main rear corridor of the main hospital building, and that is causing some operational issues which are being mitigated with staffing and with different protocols.
- There is a massively increased demand in ED over the last 3-4 months, around 30% higher demand than expected.
- There are patients in the corridors and at the moment some are on the main corridor, which means there are 3 corridors full of patients as well as lots of escalation areas open- which is providing the hospital with a lot of challenges with staffing. WUTH try and maintain a one to five ratio of patients to nurses, even on the corridors. What WUTH don't have the ability to do is to say no to an ambulance when it arrives.
- Escalation level is at three-four, which is a really high level of escalation. WUTH are trying to encourage patients to use services like NHS 111, GP out of hours services, care services and to try and do a lot of self-management and speak to the GP's early on because a lot of what the ED staff are seeing is people coming in where they've not seen anyone at their GP Practice, or they've not used other services in advance, and it's not until these people become really unwell that they're then coming into the ED.
- Every single ED in the local area is well above its capacity, and all showing an escalation level of three or four.
- WUTH request people to "travel light" to hospital with no excessive baggage/belongings.

3. Kathryn McCloud, Neston CYC -Hospital Discharge Support co-ordinator.

Kathryn told us about the NCYC discharge support service which aims to help patients return home from a hospital stay smoothly, providing reassurance and practical support such as:

- Meeting patients at their home when they are discharged to check on their wellbeing.
- Do a small food shop.
- Signposting and referring you to relevant services and activities for any ongoing support that can improve your wellbeing.

Their aims for patients are:

- To increase independence.
- Improve wellbeing.
- To reduce a delay in discharge and re-admissions for social reasons.

Please contact Age UK Wirral discharge team, if you meet the following criteria:

- **Live in CH64 postcodes (e.g., Neston, Little Neston, Parkgate, Willaston and Ness).**
- Are aged 55 and over.
- Are currently an inpatient in Arrowe Park Hospital or Clatterbridge Hospital.
- Are in need of reassurance and low-level support with your discharge.

For more information, please contact Kathryn@nestoncyc.org.uk or complete the enquiry form.



4. Eve Donnelly, Reverse Northwest CIC - Providing domestic abuse help to the Wirral and beyond.

Eve gave us a brief overview of Reverse Northwest and the help that they can offer.

- Their mission is to provide safety, advocacy, and support to survivors of domestic abuse, while working towards social change that eliminates abuse.
- To offer comprehensive services to individuals and families affected by domestic abuse, and to educate the community about the causes and prevention of abuse.
- To empower survivors of domestic abuse to rebuild their lives, and to work collaboratively to create a future where all relationships are safe and respectful.
- To offer crisis intervention and long-term support to survivors of domestic abuse and to advocate for policies and practices that promote justice and healing.
- Their mission is to provide safety and support to survivors of domestic abuse, while actively engaging in community education and systematic change to eradicate domestic abuse.

Website: <https://reversenorthwest.org.uk/>

Email: reverse_northwest4321@outlook.com

Phone: 07568409294.

Address: The Hub, Withens Lane, Wallasey, CH45 7NQ.

AOB- Information sharing, updates, and news.

1. Healthwatch Wirral is attending the [Wirral Libraries Health & Wellbeing Marketplace event Tuesday 20th January](#), taking place during [National Health Information Week](#),



2. **Sahir** delivers HIV training to various organisations across the Liverpool City Region, and are commissioned to do this in the Wirral for free. The training involves a presentation on the history of HIV, prevention and treatment, and a talk from a person with lived experience of HIV. If anyone is interested, they can contact Rachael Rachael.hickmott@sahir.org.uk www.sahir.org.uk
3. **Liverpool Social Care Partnership** is working with the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) to help them design a new government data service for the adult social care sector called 'Get Adult Social Care Data'.

The service aims to improve evidence-based decision making by helping care providers and local authorities to access relevant and reliable adult social care data. Liverpool Social Care Partnership has been working on a prototype of the new service and are looking for feedback from people who work in care homes and within the community care sector (specifically from registered managers, business owners, directors or lead analysts) to help refine and improve the service.

The online research sessions last one hour, and will be happening between the 19th - 23rd January, scheduled at a time that suits participants.

The sessions will involve using different aspects of the prototype and providing feedback on what works well and what can be improved.

Each participant will receive a £100 Amazon gift card to compensate them for their time.

If respondents meet the criteria and are interested in taking part, please contact Getadultsocialcaredata.team@dhsc.gov.uk

4. **Nicola Connor, Participation and Engagement Lead -CWP**, has asked if anyone would like any Mental Health wellbeing booklets to contact her on the following email or use the attached files.

nicola.connor6@nhs.net



Wellbeing Booklet - November24.pdf
Wellbeing Booklet - November24.pub

5. **Gail Field- ADDvanced Solutions**, hold open advice sessions -Wirral Community Network Group. No need to book, just come along to Gautby Road Community Centre, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 7DS. The Wirral Group is every Friday during term time at 9:30am – 11:30am. The Community Network Groups provide an informal discussion-based opportunity to develop your understanding around neurodevelopmental conditions (NDCs), to ask questions and share learning and experience. You can talk to other parents, the ADDvanced Solutions team and visiting professionals for help and support. All information can be found on their website, or email for any further information regarding professional training or what's on in the Wirral for families. <https://www.addvancesolutions.co.uk> , info@addvancesolutions.co.uk

6. **Hayley Nicolls, Marine Lake Medical Practice**- their Community Engagement Lead, Grace Perry, from Healthier West Wirral PCN, is currently undertaking the vast task of mapping health services in Wirral. If anyone would like to reach out, please do hayley.nicolls1@nhs.net

Forthcoming BRIDGE Forum dates in 2026:

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

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