

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

BRIDGE Forum notes for Wednesday 8th July 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. Helen Johnstone, Health Inequalities and Patient Engagement Development Lead, Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance (CMCA). The Health Inequalities and Patient Engagement offer. Helen provided an overview of the 123 Approach which is a way to empower staff to see health inequalities as their own responsibility.

- CPD Accredited Training.
 - The online module will provide staff with the knowledge and skills to tackle health inequalities and improve patient experience across the cancer pathway
 - Co-produced by patients and staff with lived experience of cancer
 - Provides locally identified examples of barriers that are experienced by patients across the country
 - Focuses on what each individual can do within their own role and offers practical guidance as to how to achieve this
 - Actionable plans, with resources and support networks for guidance.
 - They offer supplementary resources to support staff to identify and address health inequalities – these can be referred to at any time. These include;
 - Checklists – helpful tips and things to consider
 - Factsheets containing information on specific protected characteristics
 - Step by step guidance on how to identify and address health inequalities.
 - Support access to internal and external peer support networks, in addition to tailored advice and support from the HIPE (Health Inequalities and Patient Experience) Team at CMCA.
- For more information, visit the 123 Approach to Health Inequalities workspace.



123 approach
walkthrough with P

helen.johnstone9@nhs.net

2. Angeliki Papadaki, Professor of Public Health Nutrition. The Meals on Wheels provision.

Angeliki shared details of national evidence about local need, prevention and service provision for Meals on Wheels in the UK. More than 20 million adults in the UK live with care and support needs due to long-term conditions, disability and poor physical or mental health. Many of these adults are unable to leave their homes and might not be able to acquire ingredients to prepare their own meals. Around 32% of people over 65 in England are at risk of malnutrition on hospital admission, worsening disease/illness prognosis. More than 14,000 NHS hospital beds are taken up by patients who are medically fit to leave hospital but remain in hospital because care has not been organised in communities, costing the NHS around £900 million annually. These issues could be addressed by people accessing more nutrition support in the community.

The benefits of Meals on Wheels include:

- Helping to access a daily nutritious meal
- Helping reduce social isolation
- Offering well-being checks
- Helping promote independence
- Meals on Wheels provision is linked to fewer people moving into care homes
- Weekly costs of care homes vs. Meals on Wheels: £1,108 vs. £60
- 34.8% of UK areas have no Meals on Wheels provision
- 57.8% of UK areas show moderate to very high demand for Meals on Wheels
- 63.3% of UK areas show high or very high unmet needs for Meals on Wheels.

The searchable database of [Meals on Wheels](#) services across the UK includes information, evidence and FAQs relating to Meals on Wheels, resources for practitioners, commissioners, researchers and policymakers.

The two providers identified that deliver to the broader (but not necessarily the whole) Wirral area are [iCare](#) and [Deb's Dinners](#).

[Access the report:](#)

<https://express-licences.bristol.ac.uk/product/meals-on-wheels-uk-national-analysis-report>



Papadaki_Healthwa
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3. Jill Harding, Head of Fundraising and Communications, Dentaïd.

Jill gave us an overview of dental charity Dentaïd and how they help people at risk of health inequalities who've been living with the misery of toothache, restoring their self-esteem by giving them more confidence in their smile.

- Their mobile dental units travel the country visiting hostels, refuges and community centres with volunteer dental professionals providing dental treatment and oral health advice.
- They support people experiencing homelessness, survivors of abuse, families living in poverty, refugees, cancer patients and communities where vulnerable people are struggling to access dental care.
- They run a fleet of mobile dental units, delivering outreach care for the populations that they serve.

- On board the mobile dental units they can do fillings, extractions, scale and polish, fissure sealants, fluoride varnish application, prescribe antibiotics and deliver oral health education.
- Based in Southampton, with regional hubs across the UK, including mobile dental units in Kent, County Durham and the North-West.
- The BrightBites programme supported by Denplan, offers oral health education for school-aged children aged 6-10. Volunteers visit schools, nurseries, after-school clubs, community groups and childcare organisations with a focus on communities where children are at risk of social exclusion. They deliver a lively, interactive presentation that covers toothbrushing, teeth names and functions, sugar awareness and the importance of regular dental appointments.
- The North-West hub has been working with Wirral Council and family hubs in Wirral to deliver an innovative new project which started last October, running 48 mobile outreach clinics across settings in Wirral.

JUL	16/07/2026	THU	Families living in areas of high dental need	WIRRAL Co-op Academy Portland Laird Street Birkenhead Wirral CH41 0AB Dental Unit arrives 9.00am Volunteers arrive 9.30am Clinic Duration 10.00am - 2.00pm
JUL	21/07/2026	TUE	Families living in areas of high dental need	WIRRAL Neo Community, Beaconsfield Community House, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead CH42 3YN Dental Unit arrives 9.00am Volunteers arrive 9.30am Clinic Duration 10.00am - 2.00pm
JUL	22/07/2026	WED	Families living in areas of high dental need	WIRRAL Seacombe Family Hub, St. Pauls Road, CH44 7AN Dental Unit arrives 9.00am Volunteers arrive 9.30am Clinic Duration 10.00am - 2.00pm
AUG	04/08/2026	TUE	Families living in areas of high dental need	WIRRAL Neo Community, Beaconsfield Community House, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead CH42 3YN Dental Unit arrives 9.00am Volunteers arrive 9.30am Clinic Duration 10.00am - 2.00pm
AUG	05/08/2026	WED	Families living in areas of high dental need	WIRRAL Equilibrium CIC, 130 Anne St, Birkenhead CH41 3HX Dental Unit arrives 9.00am Volunteers arrive 9.30am Clinic Duration 10.00am - 2.00pm
SEPT	29/09/2026	TUE	Families living in areas of high dental need	WIRRAL Seacombe Family Hub, St. Pauls Road, CH44 7AN Dental Unit arrives 9.00am Volunteers arrive 9.30am Clinic Duration 10.00am - 2.00pm

jill.harding@dentaid.org <https://www.dentaid.org>

4. **Fleur Jones, Employment Specialist, Standguide Group for Wirral**, Support for individuals with mental health conditions get back into work.

Fleur shared details of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) and the employment support offered for people living with a Severe Mental Illness (SMI). SMI is often a long-term condition that impacts daily life and employment. People do not need to be in crisis to access support.

IPS helps people:

- Identify their employment goals, based on the person's desired roles; focusing on short and long-term goals if required
- Find paid employment
- Return to work
- Sustain employment (in-work support is provided for as long as the person requires)
- Supporting with reasonable adjustments having links with JCP (Job Centre Plus)
- If any further skills are needed to progress in a role, support is offered to find training/education as part of the in-work support offer.

IPS can help when someone:

- Wants to work
- Wants to return to work
- Is struggling to stay in work
- Is experiencing mental health-related barriers to employment.

Individuals can self-refer directly, and organisations can support people to access the service. Partnership working helps provide joined-up support as part of a wider care or treatment plan.

fleur.jones@standguide.co.uk



What is NHS IPS
ppt v2.pptx



IPS Referral
Form.docx

5. **Anna Coyle, Principal Partnerships and Transformation Manager, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside, and Lara Ashton, Senior Public Health Practitioner (Wirral Council).** Living Well Service immunisations and screening offer updates.

Anna and Lara gave us an overview of the NHS Living Well Service which is provided by NHS Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and commissioned by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

- The service operates on a fully drop-in basis and provides seasonal vaccinations, cervical screening, health checks, and mental wellbeing support in the heart of communities.
- From the start of October to the end of June the NHS Living Well Service provides flu (flu vaccines were only available until 31st March 2026) and Covid-19 vaccinations as well as NHS Health Checks which include:
 - Blood pressure
 - Pulse
 - Cholesterol
 - Blood glucose
 - BMI
 - Direct referrals to talking therapies.
- The NHS Living Well Cervical Screening pilot ran from January to March 2026. The service visited 4 locations and saw 97 eligible citizens with 67 of these being screened at:
 - Tomorrow's Women Wirral, Birkenhead
 - St Werburgh's Square, Birkenhead
 - ASDA, Wallasey
 - Leasowe Millenium Centre, Wallasey.

The next phase of the pilot will be undertaken in July and September 2026 with clinics planned in 'The Livvy', Equilibrium North-West CIC, Birkenhead and Liscard ASDA.

- In July 2026, the NHS Living Well Service will be working jointly with 'This Is Influential' and CHAMPS targeting workplaces of routine and manual (R&M) workers within Cheshire & Merseyside to become smokefree by 2030 by helping employers take practical action to support staff to quit smoking. The support available for workplaces will include:
 - Opportunities for tailored support
 - Access to free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) such as patches, gum and more for eligible employees to help manage cravings
 - Access to specialist behavioural support from trained stop smoking advisers.



BRIDGE Forum -
NHS Living Well Sen

- 6. Luke Blundell, Business Analyst, Healthwatch Wirral.** Annual Report updates/highlights. Luke shared updates about the Healthwatch Wirral annual report which will be published at the end of this week, as well as details of our [newsletter](#) which is designed to keep everyone informed about what we are doing across health and social care in Wirral, sharing key findings, reports and insights from our work.

A snapshot of our work during 2025/26, including public engagement, reports published, volunteer contributions, and support provided to local people across Wirral:

- 10,400+ experiences shared
- 24,100+ contacts and interactions
- 9 reports published
- 1,231 volunteer hours
- 71 people supported with NHS complaints.

Key projects this year included:

- Quality Accounts – We provided an informed Commentary to the annual Quality Accounts for Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS FT, Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS FT, and Wirral Community Health & Care NHS FT.
- 'Way Forward' was launched – Our 12-month non-clinical High Intensity Use programme, providing personalised, community-based support to help reduce frequent attendances to A&E and improve people's health and wellbeing.
- Developed NHS App Training Guide – Designed and focus tested with our volunteers, we created a simple page-by-page instruction for using the NHS App. This was then rolled out to GP Patient Participation Groups.
- Review of the Primary Care Access Recovery Plan (PCARP) - Detailed research into how Wirral PCNs are implementing the NHS Access Recovery Plan. We examined digital improvements, patient access, and impacts on health inequalities.
- Wirral Carers Survey – We gathered the experiences of unpaid Carers in Wirral, who shared that there were gaps in Carer identification, poor access to support, and the need for more inclusive services and clearer information about Carers' rights.

- Review of the Musculoskeletal Self-Referral Pathway – We examined patient experiences of the MSK self-referral process, highlighting the positive access and some digital barriers, with recommendations for improvements.
- NHS App and Independent Feedback Report – Collaborating with 18 other local Healthwatch, Healthwatch Wirral led and researched NHS App use, digital inclusion, and the role of independent feedback within digital healthcare moving forwards.
- Consultations of Day Services – Working with Wirral Council, we provided independent one-to-one support to people using Day Services to capture their thoughts on future provision and fed into Wirral Council Winter decision-making.

 HWW_Annual_Report_2025-2026_Presentation

Click here to see the
healthwatch
Wirral
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Wirral
Mailing List

 HWW_Annual_Report_2025-2026_Final

AOB- Information sharing, updates and news.

1. Dominic Griffiths, Business Relationship Manager, Energy Projects Plus.

Dominic shared their downloadable/printable/sharable "Keeping Cool in Summer" factsheet. Contact details available for people struggling to afford their energy bills.



Top-9-Ways-To-Stay-Cool-During-Summer

2. Liz Ryan Engagement Lead and Macmillan Engagement Officer, One Wirral CIC.

One Wirral coordinates a peer network for anyone supporting people affected by cancer. They have an online meeting once every two months, next month is focusing on support with anxiety, worry and fear. Anyone wishing to join can email liz.ryan6@nhs.net for the online meeting link.

Forthcoming BRIDGE Forum dates in 2026:

(there will be no BRIDGE Forum in August)

09 Sep 14 Oct 11 Nov 09 Dec.

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