

# PASS IT ON 2019

“Pass it on” is a new, community-wide project starting early 2019 and closing with celebration and award events in June and July 2019.

## Project Aim

*To create a safer, more cohesive community with early identification and improved reporting of safeguarding and vulnerability issues.*

Halton is a borough that has always been a welcoming and inclusive place to live and work and is becoming a more diverse community. This project offers the opportunity for us to celebrate this. We are looking for people to participate- to share their good news stories, to try any activity on being a good neighbour and to look after each other, especially those people in our community that may have care or support needs. We are leading a public campaign, joining with partners in the community, across social media, the press and hosting public celebration events. We are offering **FREE** Alerter Training, delivered by award-winning Geese Theatre Company; that will help people to understand how to identify and find support for those who may be at risk of harm.

## Issues being dealt with through this project

Many local issues were identified in a report that was written on behalf of Halton’s Faith Sector Forum and submitted to both Halton Safeguarding Boards (Children’s and Adults). Further details are provided below in ‘background’ section. Other issues have been identified and verified by partners within the two safeguarding boards and its sub groups. The main, but not exclusive, ones being addressed by this project are:

- Safeguarding of adults, children and young people
- Hate crime and harassment reduction
- Loneliness and social isolation
- Diversity of culture, backgrounds and circumstances eg asylum seekers, refugees
- People who have been trafficked
- People who have been abused
- Vulnerability
- The introduction of Universal Credit (UC) and its negative effects on people e.g. evictions, homelessness, rising debt, increase in use of food banks, fuel poverty, destitution.

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## Celebration events

There will be an Awards Ceremony on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 6-8pm at the Select Stadium, Widnes, where all those who have participated will be recognised and celebrated. The Mayor of Halton, Chief Executive of Halton Borough Council and Cllr Rob Polhill will be in attendance, along with local media coverage. In addition, Halton Healthy Schools, a long-standing and highly successful programme run by The Health Improvement Team (HIT) have offered their support to this project. HIT host an annual end of year celebration event where children and young people who have been nominated within the 'Pass it on' project will also be recognised and celebrated here.

Additionally, Halton Health Improvement Team via their Healthy Schools Initiative will be hosting a celebration event on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Any school who has participated will share their good news stories, celebrate and award any pupils who have participated in this project, specific mention going to finalists. The finalists will be invited to the Awards Ceremony on 22<sup>nd</sup> July where the overall 'winner' will be announced.

## Concept

The concept of being a 'Good Neighbour' and "passing on" your concerns to a trustworthy person who can give information, advice or signpost to relevant people or organisations, was considered as a mechanism to address several of the issues discussed in the aforementioned report and to carry out preventative measures under a strong branding that could be easily understood.

## Offer within the good neighbour – 'Pass it on' project



1. **FREE** Alerter Training, delivered by award-winning Geese Theatre Company; that will help people to understand how to identify and find support for those who may be at risk of harm. Geese Theatre Company are experienced, tried and tested drama-based facilitators helping us to address 1<sup>st</sup> responders/1<sup>st</sup> Alerters. This is being delivered twice (morning and afternoon) on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Training to include signs and symptoms of Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking, Prevent, County Lines, honour-based violence, Female Genital Mutilation, and to include actual quotations and/or case studies from people from different backgrounds and circumstances living in Halton. This will be offered free to adults living or working in Halton with targeted attendance hoped from local transport workers, taxi drivers, shop workers,

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community centres, GP practices' reception staff; Halton Direct Link staff, housing providers' front-line staff, DWP front-line staff, pharmacies, Street Pastors, Family Support Workers, Children's Centres, community workers, school and college staff, Fire and Rescue Service, nominated Local Authority staff, voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) staff and volunteers and others as identified. To book on via Eventbrite click [HERE](#).

2. Train the Trainers programme - to cascade and continue to share key messages of safeguarding and inclusion to wider networks and across all sectors of the community, including private businesses, thus ensuring sustainability, using innovative and engaging resources, e.g. video clips of scenarios on specific issues like modern slavery etc., and training staff to use these as tools for training. New scenarios could be used in future training or in team meetings too. Clips will be available on Pass It On partner websites including Halton Safeguarding Adults and Children's webpages [HERE](#). Partners will be encouraged to share their organisational training offer and/or staff to provide the programme, so as to maximise resources. This will take place from April 10<sup>th</sup> through to end of June. This should encourage wider participation in this project but also continue to raise awareness of the issues raised from the original report, addressing the projects aims.
3. Public Awareness Campaign –badged activities and social media campaign using **#passiton** or **#goodneighbour** and a sign up by services to participate. Existing service provision could be badged up/branded and projects that fit with the brief of good neighbour – 'Pass it on' to be included in this project e.g. PCSOs' door knocking. Schools and colleges, through the Healthy School Initiative, which is very well established and successful in Halton, voluntary, community and faith groups will be encouraged to participate in determining what a good neighbour is and individuals will work towards becoming one. Press releases and social media will be used to publicise and celebrate the good neighbour – 'Pass it on' theme.
4. **Pass It On 2019 Awards** for local Good Neighbours, Halton people who have shown genuine acts of kindness:
  - a. Healthy School Initiative – all schools and colleges in Halton end the academic year with a celebration event. The presentation of good neighbour awards to pupils who are finalists will be added to this. This is scheduled for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July.
  - b. Pass It On 2019 Award Ceremony. The award of Halton's Good Neighbour of the Year, where individuals or organisations can nominate a good neighbour leading up to this. Schools and colleges will also be included in this by holding elections and having finalists who will go forwards to the Halton Good Neighbour of the Year. This is scheduled for Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July from 6-8pm in the Select Stadium.
5. Reporting/signposting - for people to highlight their worries about a range of concerns impacting on the more vulnerable in the community. Key safeguarding messages, local contact details and helpful information including promotion and use of existing apps such as the Domestic Abuse, Car and Modern Slavery will be shared across all partners.

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## Ideas on being a good neighbour (in this context) to get you started

We are talking about the local heroes in your street / community / school / college / organisation whose acts of kindness really set them apart.

Some of the things said about good neighbours are: their willingness to look out for each other, being sociable and friendly, offering practical help and being kind, caring and respectful. In this project we are looking **more specifically** at being a good neighbour and passing on concerns about people who are or who are at risk of being vulnerable because of:

- Perceived difference
- Ill health – mental or physical
- Disability/learning disability
- Poverty
- Destitution
- Homelessness
- Abuse in all its forms
- Isolation
- Different cultural norms
- Sexuality

### Some examples of what being a good neighbour could entail

- Having a polite, respectful, non-judgemental attitude
- Giving practical help e.g.
  - **for adults** - support with form filling, supporting people with food parcels, clothes, bedding, household items etc. or
  - **for children and young people** - giving toys, clothes, food, some of their pocket money (with permission from a trusted adult)
- Befriending –
  - **for adults** this could include taking people to activities. shopping, hospital or worship etc. and
  - **for children and young people** this could be including people in friendship groups and activities, being kind and not bullying or excluding others
- Keeping an eye out for people – noticing things that are not usual and passing this on
- Being respectful of privacy, not prying into affairs – however if there is a concern passing this on
- Not being noisy or overwhelming
- Being there in time of need



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- Organising or taking part in fundraising activities and giving proceeds to vulnerable groups or people
- Calling to see people and talking with them (adults only and being careful of your own safety)
- Welcoming new neighbours to the community by introducing yourself and giving some advice, or tips on the local area
- Helping with shopping, gardening, cleaning, tidying
- Being a “listening ear”
- Joining in the social media campaign- to raise awareness within your own circle of friends, family, school or workplace **#passiton** and **#goodneighbour**

### How do we take part in this project?

1. If you are an individual (not from an organisation within Halton) and want to nominate an individual who lives in Halton, fill in the nomination form and return it following the return details at the bottom of the form
2. If you are from an organisation in Halton, devise an action plan within your organisation to include:
  - a) How you will publicise and implement the good neighbour –‘Pass it on 2019’ project
  - b) The outcomes you hope to achieve and how you will measure them (pictures, evaluations, comments etc)
  - c) The criteria you set for the nominations, fitting in with the context of this project – utilise service users, pupils, clients, patients to decide upon these
  - d) Nomination and election process – how and who makes decisions? Utilise service users, pupils, clients, patients to decide upon this. Use the nomination forms to submit anyone you would like considering for an award.
  - e) Setting the timescale – the good neighbour – ‘Pass it on’ project will be officially launched in February. The Healthy Schools Initiative award ceremony will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July and the Halton Pass It On 2019 Award Ceremony will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 6 – 8 pm.
  - f) Carry out discussions, activities, awareness raising, badging these as **#GoodNeighbour / #Passiton**. In May for schools and colleges and June 2019 for everyone else, carry out your election processes, using the attached nomination forms. You should end up with one overall winner per age category - **under 11s, 11-18s, 18 – 65s, 65 plus and groups (depending on which age range(s) you work with)**

Send all nomination forms to Mark Lunney on [marklunney@aukmm.org.uk](mailto:marklunney@aukmm.org.uk) or by post to Mark Lunney, CEO Age UK Mid Mersey, The Mansion House, Victoria Park, City Road, St. Helens, WA10 2UE by:

- 31<sup>st</sup> May for schools’ and colleges’ nominations or
- 28<sup>th</sup> June for organisations’ and individuals’ nominations

to allow the judging panel to select the overall Halton winners in the categories: **under 11s, 11-18s, 18 – 65s, 65 plus and groups.**

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## Background

The project is being led, on behalf of a wide partnership, by Age UK Mid Mersey. The partnership includes:

- Halton Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB)
- Halton Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB)
- The Halton Safeguarding Faith Forum (a sub group reporting to both boards)
- Halton Health Improvement Team (HIT)
- The HSAB Safeguarding Partnership Forum:  
Examples of organisations represented at the Forum are Halton Borough Council, Halton Carers' Centre, Halton CAB, Cheshire Constabulary, Elysium Health Care, Halton Health Improvement Team, the Department of Works and Pensions, Halton Clinical Commissioning Group, Nightstop, schools, colleges and a variety of faith organisations.

Following a report, written in December 2017, on behalf of the Faith Forum by its Chair, (copy available on request) which highlighted many worrying issues in Halton and was submitted to Halton Adults' and Children's Safeguarding Boards, then subsequent discussions, the "Good Neighbour – pass it on" project, was agreed. A small grant of funding was sought and secured from the Cheshire Police Crime Commissioner to take this forwards supported by partners from the above organisations/boards.

In brief, the original discussion addressed issues of social isolation, socio-economic deprivation, abuse in all its forms and people's vulnerability, and the potential for increased risk of safeguarding issues as a result. The current demographics of Halton were discussed particularly how these are changing, becoming more diverse with refugees and asylum seekers settling here for instance, and, as a result, posing the question how inclusivity is being addressed to prevent any escalation of safeguarding issues, for example hate crime, with those community members who have the fewest resources or support they can access. The Neighbourhood Watch programme was also mentioned, and this prompted the concept of a more modern, user-friendly theme of neighbourliness to be encouraged by partnership working, to address the issues highlighted in the report.

The group agreed a positive, strengths-based partnership approach would work well and would allow the profile raising of current good practice and utilising community assets to their fullest, enabling the most efficient and effective approach to maximise the limited resources available. The theme will be built into staff and volunteers' everyday working practices or, if it is already there, then branded as good neighbourliness.

As there has been a rise in young people being criminally exploited in the Cheshire Police's area, the project also takes cognisance of "county lines" where:

"a group (not necessarily affiliated as a gang) establishes a network between an urban hub and county location, into which drugs (primarily heroin and crack cocaine) are supplied. The group exploits young or vulnerable persons, to achieve the storage and/or supply of drugs, movement of cash proceeds and to secure the use of

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dwellings (commonly referred to as cuckooing). The group or individuals exploited by them regularly travel between the urban hub and the county market, to replenish stock and deliver cash. The group is inclined to use intimidation, violence and weapons, including knives, corrosives and firearms.” *County Lines Violence, Exploitation & Drug Supply. National Crime Agency, 2017. National Briefing Report*

For further information visit the website [HERE](#)

or if you have any queries please contact Pauline Ruth, Chair of the Halton Safeguarding Faith Forum, on [pauline.ruth1@gmail.com](mailto:pauline.ruth1@gmail.com)

### Partners

Age UK Mid-Mersey

Cheshire Police

Halton Safeguarding Faith Forum

Halton Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB)

Halton Safeguarding Children’s Board (HSCB)

Halton Borough Council (HBC)

Halton Health Improvement Team (HIT)

Halton Safeguarding Board Partnership Forum

*Thank you for joining us*

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