

Halton Child Contact Centre (Runcorn & Widnes)



"Keeping children in touch with parents following separation"

Re-accreditation Summary

NACCC child contact centres and services have an endorsed accreditation process which shows that all NACCC services work to agreed and approved national standards, which ensure that families using the services are safe. The national standards are updated by NACCC in line with legislation and good practice. All NACCC child contact centres which offer supported contact undergo an accreditation process which is renewed every three years. Accreditation demonstrates that the centre is working to the national standards for supported contact.

Re-accreditation process fully completed: 19th November 2018

Halton Child Contact Centre consists of two supported contact centre operating in Runcorn and Widnes, Cheshire. Contact information can be found on the NACCC website: ([Runcorn](#) & [Widnes](#)).

Summary of Accreditation Assessment

Halton's centres in Runcorn and Widnes operate under the same charity number, management committee and Coordinator. They operate on alternate Saturdays from 1.30-4.00 with Runcorn opening on the first and third weeks and Widnes on the second and fourth. Occasionally families attend both if weekly attendance is needed. They have both been open for approaching twenty-five years and won a Queen's Golden Jubilee Award in 2003. They started when a local magistrate recognised the need from her work in the Family Court. Widnes opened first. Runcorn runs in a Church of England property but there are no formal links with the church or any other organisation. It does not run any other services.

Photos of Halton Child Contact Centre (Runcorn)



PTO for further details



Runcorn is an industrial port town in the Borough of Halton. Christ Church Pastoral Centre is situated on the Castlefields estate to the north-east of Runcorn centre. There is a bus stop nearby and a car park adjacent. It is near several main arterial roads and the new Runcorn Bridge. There are rail links into the centre of Runcorn but not to the centre itself and the taxi fare is £12 each way or two buses.

Halton Child Contact Centre, Runcorn is one of two long-established Centres that have run with volunteers and no paid staff or charges to families until the recent appointment of a paid Coordinator for 16 hours per week. The premises are in a church hall but there is no formal relationship between the church and the Centre and no other services are provided. The Centre has all the necessary policies, procedures and forms in place to ensure a safe and pleasant experience for the children and families who attend. Health & Safety requirements and Risk assessments are fulfilled, and volunteers are vigilant during contact sessions. Referrals tend to be predominantly self-referrals with some from solicitors. Pre-contact meetings take place mostly on weekdays if possible. The Centre is open from 1.30-4.00 on the first and third Saturdays of each month and can accommodate about 5/6 families or 8 children at a time. The Widnes Centre can also be accessed on the other two Saturdays if weekly attendance is necessary. Arrangements are in place so that parents do not have to meet. Only dates and times of attendance are recorded unless there are any Accidents or Safeguarding issues.

There is an active Management Committee and volunteers are supported by the Coordinator. Training is now being organised on a more systematic basis and the Coordinator supports the Team leaders as necessary during sessions. She herself is supervised and supported by the Deputy Chair. At the moment the Centre's finances are in a healthy state but they are applying for grants to make sure they stay that way and that there is enough income to maintain a salaried Coordinator in post.

Photos of Halton Child Contact Centre (Widnes)



Halton Child Contact Centre's Widnes venue opened first. Widnes runs in a Methodist URC Church property but there are no formal links with the church or any other organisation. It does not run any other services. Widnes is an industrial town in Halton on the northern bank of the River Mersey where the estuary narrows to form the Runcorn Gap. It is close to the main A557 and not far from the new Runcorn Bridge. There is good car parking. It is only about 10 minutes from Widnes centre by bus. There are other local facilities adjacent.

Halton Child Contact Centre, Widnes is one of two long-established Centres that have run with volunteers and no paid staff or charges to families until the recent appointment of a paid Coordinator for 16 hours per week. The premises are in a church hall but there is no formal relationship between the church and the Centre and no other services are provided. The Centre has all the necessary policies, procedures and forms in place to ensure a safe and pleasant experience for the children

and families who attend. Health & Safety requirements and Risk assessments are fulfilled, and volunteers are vigilant during contact sessions. Referrals tend to be predominantly self-referrals with some from solicitors. Pre-contact meetings take place mostly on weekdays if possible. The Centre is open from 1.30-4.00 on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month and can accommodate about 8 families or 10 children at a time. The Runcorn Centre can also be accessed on the other two Saturdays if weekly attendance is necessary. Arrangements are in place so that parents do not have to meet. Only dates and times of attendance are recorded unless there are any Accidents or Safeguarding issues.

There is an active Management Committee and volunteers are supported by the Coordinator. Training is now being organised on a more systematic basis and the Coordinator supports the Team leaders as necessary during sessions. She herself is supervised and supported by the Deputy Chair. At the moment the Centre's finances are in a healthy state but they are applying for grants to make sure they stay that way and that there is enough income to maintain a salaried Coordinator in post.

Overall this was a positive accreditation with few recommendations for development. Two very good centres, a set of recommendations have been made as the consequence of what looks to be a thorough assessment. It took a little while, but the action plan was completed to a good standard.

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