



Delivering Special
Provision Locally



DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 3

08.10.25



Afternoon 'TA' Tea – SEMH support sessions

This session is specifically for Teaching Assistants or Learning Support Assistants working 1:1 or closely with pupils with SEMH needs - within their mainstream schools.

During the session, you will have the opportunity to liaise with The Acorn Centre Team behaviour support practitioners and Sarah Kenny - The Provision Lead.

You are welcome to bring SEMH challenges/scenarios you face within your mainstream schools to the session anonymously. We will be here to offer you a hot drink, advice, recommend resources, signpost services and support for the children we can anonymously discuss.

You will also be given a short tour of our centre.

Please note - This session will be held at The Acorn Centre in South Oxhey - (We are located nearby the Police Station on Oxhey Drive)

For dates and booking information please use the following link:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/theacorncentre>



DSPL 9 SENCo Drop in sessions

Weekly drop in sessions with Mandy Brandon and Gemma Hall are available to all SENCOs across the DSPL 9 area. Starting from **Tuesday 23rd September** and running every week for the entire academic year.

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 3.45-4.30pm

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Please use the link below for any of the Tuesday sessions:

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 340 101 177 553 9

Passcode: FD789nR7



Changes to Special School Outreach

As some of you may be aware there have been significant changes to the special school outreach service, correspondence was sent out to all SENCOs earlier this week.

To ensure all schools and SENCOs are aware of these changes the information shared can be found [here](#).



Primary SpLD Online Pupil Focus Surgeries Academic Year 2025-26

Following a successful pilot in the summer term, Laura Bloomberg (see bio below) has kindly offered to continue to provide weekly SpLD unnamed pupil focus surgeries for primary schools to meet the local need around SpLD support and next steps.

The purpose of these sessions is to help schools support pupils of concern (SpLD in nature), by giving advice on how to best support their presenting needs and advise on next steps, suitable resources, interventions, quality first teaching strategies, inclusive classroom practice...etc

How do I access this support?

- Sessions will be available every Monday from 9-9.30am and 9.30-10.00am (see dates below)
- Following completion of the google form (link below) you will be contacted by the DSPL 9 administrator to book a date and time to attend.
- Once the booking has been confirmed you will receive the zoom link to attend a session.

What will happen during the session?

- The school SENCO and class teacher **MUST** be able to attend the session.
- Verbal feedback/advice will be provided during the session. No written follow up will be provided.

If a booked session is not attended this service will not be available to you in the future.

Bookings for the autumn term are now available:

Monday 15 th September	Monday 3 rd November
Monday 22 nd September	Monday 10 th November
Monday 29 th September	Monday 17 th November
Monday 6 th October	Monday 24 th November
Monday 13 th October	Monday 1 st December
Monday 20 th October	Monday 8 th December

To access the google form please click on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/9SjxvEv7tTpfVAp7>

Please note:

This service is purely available to enable the schools to best support individual pupils. The information provided by Laura cannot be used as evidence for any referrals or applications.

DSPL 9 SpLD Drop box

In addition to the wide range of support that Laura Bloomberg is providing DSPL9, she has also created an SpLD Resource Folder which you can all access via the Dropbox link below.

The folder is divided into sub-folders and includes the Herts Assessments, which Laura shared at the primary SENCOs recent cluster meetings. There are also other sub-folders which will be added to, as and when appropriate.

If you are interested in signing up for Laura's next online 'Inference Training Course – An Evidence-Based Comprehension Intervention', details of the November course are also in there.

Please note that is only available for DSPL 9 schools/SENCOs to access and it is **NOT to be shared**.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/l0o7wadt1mz1p7tzponin/ABHdgqzyj7WxnpPrDVEDEq8?rlkey=npvmefjqexl6qz8pvf5o88grs&e=1&dl=0>



Please be reminded that all referrals including EBSA tier 3 and 4 **MUST** be sent via **schoolsfx** to the correct email. These referrals contain a range of confidential information and it is therefore important that they are sent through the right channels.

LHNF:
dsp9lhnf@bournehall.herts.sch.uk

EBSA tier 3 and 4
admin@dsplarea9.org.uk

For any technical issues with schoolsfx please contact:

<https://thegrid.org.uk/data-and-reporting/confidential-data-exchange/schoolsfx>



DSPL 9/Chessbrook SEMH Solution Circles

Please note a number of the SEMH solution circles have moved to the earlier time of 8.30-9.30am. The timetable below has been updated to reflect this.

[SEMH Solution Circle Referral Form](#)

Autumn term	Monday 13 th October	Primary	3.30-4.30pm
	Monday 3 rd November	Primary	3.30-4.30pm
	Monday 17 th November	Secondary	3.30-4.30pm
	Monday 8th December	Primary	8.30-9.30am
Spring Term	Monday 26th January	Primary	8.30-9.30am
	Monday 23 rd February	Primary	3.30-4.30pm
	Monday 16th March	Secondary	8.30-9.30am
Summer Term	Monday 27th April	Primary	8.30-9.30am
	Monday 18 th May	Primary	3.30-4.30pm
	Monday 8 th June	Secondary	3.30-4.30pm
	Monday 29 th June	Primary	3.30-4.30pm

Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA) Top tips for professionals

- Collaborate closely with school's pastoral care & attendance teams.
- Allocate key person for young person, parents/carers.
- Use young person's form to identify push/pull factors to attending school.
- Speak with young person, parents/carers, to help build trust/rapport.
- Use forms to widen lens on situation & refer back at any time.
- For phased returns, use the Reduced Timetable templates for the Reintegration Plan & Risk Assessment for effective planning, monitoring & reporting non-full-time attendance to the Local Authority.



Find Hertfordshire's EBSNA guidance at: www.thegrid.org.uk

- Aim to empower young person & parent/carer to work together for a common goal.
- Empathise by putting yourself in young person, parent/carer shoes.
- Share the long-term benefits of attending school.
- Include an end date in the action plan with regular interim progress reviews.
- Record how safe, secure & happy a young person feels in school, as well as their attendance.



Ordinarily Available Provision: Sept 2020 Update

Following the first sessions of the OAP launch events, please be reminded that the up to date OAP documentation is now available on the Grid:

<https://thegrid.org.uk/send-and-additional-needs/ordinarily-available-provision>

If you haven't yet booked to attend one of the launch sessions taking place across the County please click on the link below:

21.10.25	8:30-10:30am 12.30-2:30pm 3:30-5:30pm	Stanborough Centre, Watford, WD25 9JL
21.10.25	8:30-10:30am 12.30-2:30pm 3:30-5:30pm	The Snow Centre, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 9NH
22.10.25	8:30-10:30am 12.30-2:30pm 3:30-5:30pm	Fielder Centre, Hatfield, AL10 9TP
22.10.25	8:30-10:30am 12.30-2:30pm 3:30-5:30pm	The Snow Centre, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 9NH

[Click here](#) for all dates, times, venues and booking links.

N.B: A maximum of 3 people per setting can attend – all events are fully funded, and refreshments will be provided.



Cognition and Learning Team Offer

The Hertfordshire Cognition and Learning team offer a wide range of traded services to support SENCOs and schools ranging from a comprehensive training offer to school consultations.

Please find the attached information document to see everything that they offer

Speech and Language Education Leads: New to SENCo training

The Hertfordshire Children’s Speech and Language Therapy Service are running a SENCO refresher/ new SENCO training session which will specifically focus on the Speech and Language Therapy service (who we support, making referrals, our service model, roles and responsibilities and how to stay in contact with us). This will be an **online** training session on **20th November 9.30-10.30am**.

If you are new to being a SENCO in Hertfordshire or think it would be useful to have a refresher on this information, please book your space for the training session

here: <https://outlook.office.com/book/hctCYPTherapies@nhs.onmicrosoft.com/s/C5Hp6tADN0WQFfL8Huv9IA2>

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

FREE



MHFA England

1 day **Champion course** designed specifically for school professionals working with 8 to 18 year olds.

You will learn:

- An understanding of common mental health issues and how they can affect young people
- The ability to spot the signs of mental ill health in young people, and guide them to a place of support
- Knowledge and confidence to advocate for mental health awareness
- Skills to support positive wellbeing

Friday 21 Nov 2025 9.30am to 4pm	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER	Parents/Carers	Parking available on site
Friday 5 Dec 2025 9.30am to 4pm	Hertfordshire County Council, Robertson House, Stevenage, SG1 2FQ	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Friday 23 Jan 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Peartree Spring Primary School, Stevenage, SG2 9GG	Parents/Carers	Parking available on roads near venue
Friday 6 Feb 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Springmead Primary School, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 2HB	School Professionals	Parking available on roads near the venue
Friday 27 Feb 2026 9.30am to 4pm	The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, St Albans, AL1 4LW	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Friday 6 Mar 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER	School Professionals	Parking available on site

2 day **First Aider course** suitable for everyone who teaches, works, lives with or cares for 8 to 18 year olds.

You will learn:

- An in depth understanding of young people’s mental health and factors that affect wellbeing
- Practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues
- Confidence to reassure and support a young person in distress
- Enhanced interpersonal skills, such as non judgemental listening
- Knowledge to help a young person recover their health by guiding them to further support
- How to engage with parents, carers and external agencies
- How to support a young person with a long term mental health illness to thrive
- Tools to look after your own wellbeing

Thursday 6 & Friday 7 Nov 2025 9.30am to 4pm	Peartree Spring Primary School, Stevenage, SG2 9GG	School Professionals	Parking available on roads near venue
Thursday 15 & Friday 16 Jan 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER	School Professionals	Parking available on site

To book your place please email schoolsmh@hertfordshire.gov.uk
Places are limited to two representatives per education setting



Emotional & Mental Wellbeing in Education newsletter
Hertfordshire's guide to emotional mental wellbeing in education; sharing news, information and good practice to educational settings.

The Sept/Oct 2025 EMWiE newsletter is now available. Within this edition you will find information about:

- EBSNA Framework
- MH Leads Training
- The Emotional Mental Wellbeing in Schools Mark

To access the newsletter please [click here](#).

The flyer features three logos at the top: NESSie (a circular logo with a stylized 'e'), DSPL9 (a dark blue circle with white text), and a logo for 'SOUTH WEST Herts TALK THERAPIST' (a house icon inside a yellow circle). The main title is 'DSPL 9 Emotionally Based School Anxiety Coffee Morning' in blue text. Below the title is an illustration of a brown coffee cup with white polka dots and steam rising from it. The text below the cup reads: 'DSPL 9 are pleased to be able to offer a face to face session for parents and carers of children and young people who are experiencing EBSA (emotionally based school anxiety/avoidance). The event will be run by DSPL 9 with a Family Support Worker and Nessie Therapist available to offer support and guidance.' The dates for 2025-26 are listed as: 'Monday 13th October 2025: Confirmed', 'Monday 2nd February 2026', and 'Monday 11th May 2026'. The time is '10.00am-11.30am' and the venue is 'ASDA Community Room, St Albans Rd, Watford WD24 7RT'. The contact information is 'Please contact admin@dsplarea9.org.uk if you would like to attend the session.'

Please find attached to this email the above flyer for you to circulate with your school community.



North Hertfordshire College is pleased to announce our November open event at **Springboard Watford** which will be held on **Thursday 6th November 3pm – 5pm** at our prestigious premises. This is an opportunity for professionals, parents, and prospective students to meet the team and find out more about the Springboard programme.

Please note our address for this event will be:

**Springboard
Unit 8 Wilmington Close
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD18 0FQ**

The nearest car park is local Sainsbury's where you can park for free for two hours, or Gade car park in Rosslyn Road and Wilmington Close is off Upton Road:

<https://citipark.co.uk/car-parks/watford/gade-car-park>

If you are not already aware of Springboard, it is a full-time personalised course which provides students with the support, knowledge, skills and confidence to become more independent, make informed decisions and ultimately to progress into mainstream college and work. The course is delivered in self-contained teaching centre in Watford.

Springboard course is for school leavers - young people aged 16 and over who require additional support before progressing to a cross college vocational course or employment. Many of our students have a diagnosis or traits of autism. Many have associated emotional and mental health needs that require specialist and bespoke support before they can move on and make a successful transition to adulthood. We do also consider 15-year-olds but only if they have an EHCP – subject to funding being approved by the county.

Our students study Employability, Functional Skills Maths and English from Entry 3 to Level 2, Creative Arts (Drama) Therapy, Life Skills, Personal Development and Wellbeing, Vocational tasters in Art, Cooking and First Aid, Enrichment, and complete 34 hours of work experience in their vocational area of interest. We support our students to transition into cross college vocational courses, supported internships or apprenticeships or employment by helping them to discover what they want to do after Springboard, arranging taster sessions and supporting them at interviews.

Students need to meet our assessment criteria in order to access the provision although individual needs are always considered, and decisions are made on a case by case basis and subject to funding being approved by the Local Authority.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Mark Kucper: mkucper@nhc.ac.uk or text / call us on: 07961522708. To help us to manage numbers we would appreciate a confirmation from you as to what time you are planning to attend.

Please forward this email to any students, parents or professional contacts who may be interested in attending.

If you are unable to attend but would like to find out more about our provision, we would be happy to arrange a visit on an individual basis. Please email Mark at the above email.