



Delivering Special  
Provision Locally



## DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 5

12.11.25



### HFL SEND Briefing: Spring and Summer Term

All bookings for the HFL SEND briefings will now be taken centrally by HFL. This will mean that you are able to book onto both the spring and summer via the link below.

#### [DSPL Briefings Booking Form](#)

Please see below for venues:

Term	Date and Time	Venue
Spring	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 1.30-3.30pm	Parmiter's School, High Elms Ln, Watford WD25 0UU
Summer	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 1.30-3.30pm	Rickmansworth School Scots Hill, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3AQ

Please ensure once you have booked the date goes into your diary.

Any amendments to booking would need to be done via:

[training@hfleducation.org](mailto:training@hfleducation.org)



### 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

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### Refer for a child or young person's autism and/ or ADHD assessment

Please note the documentation as part of the Autism and ADHD assessments have been updated. To view the forms please follow the link below:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/services-for-children-and-young-people/refer-for-a-child-or-young-persons-autism-and-or-adhd-assessment.aspx>



Hertfordshire Community  
NHS Trust

**Key Stage 2 Targeted Language Groups**  
Children & Young People's (CYP) Speech & Language Therapy Service

Dear Sencos,

Hopefully you will have heard that over the last half term we have been busy piloting our KS2 Language groups in one school in each DSPL. We are excited to let you know that we have now opened our sign up list for this and will be rolling these out more widely from after February half term.

We have attached a flyer with more information about the groups. If you would like to run these groups in your setting, please email us at [hct.watfordslitedleads@nhs.net](mailto:hct.watfordslitedleads@nhs.net) and we will add your School to the sign up list. Please note, we are anticipating a high demand for these groups so it may be some time before we are able to run these groups in your setting.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Many thanks,

**Hadassa Kendler and Laura Robson**

**Speech and Language Therapists - Education Leads for DSPLs 6 & 9**



The Acorn Centre

**The Acorn Centre Website is now live!!**

For all information including tier 2 and 4 support, criteria and referral processes please use the link below:

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

## PLEASE JOIN US

**DSPL 9 EYs SENCo Forum**

The first DSPL 9 EYs SENCo forum of this academic year will be taking place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November from 10-11am.

**Microsoft Teams** [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 350 869 870 982 64

Passcode: sg6Xq6Jy

In addition to a DSPL 9 update we will be joined by Sarah Coelho from One YMCA and Debbi Watson (EYs Lead Advisory Teacher).

# UPDATE

## LHNF arrangements Spring 2025

As many of you will be aware, the new funding system (Focused Intervention Funding, FIF) was due to launch in the spring term and replace LHNF. Due to this system not being ready at this point, a decision has been made to continue with LHNF during the spring term. This will mean that there will be LHNF panels in January, February and March enabling SENCOs to access funding to cover the spring term. It is intended that FIF will replace LHNF in the summer term with training opportunities planned in the spring term prior to the change.

In order to enable the LHNF panels to take place in the spring term, we would be grateful for SENCOs from each phase of education: Early Years, Primary, Secondary schools to join one of the panel dates below. For each LHNF panel to go ahead, the terms of reference require at least 4 members from a school/setting to attend.

The meetings will take place via MS Teams from 9.30-12.30 and schools receive a £100 payment in return for the time taken to read papers and attend the panel.

Please let me know if you would be interested in attending and your availability by replying to this email:

	Panel	Deadline
January	22.01.26	08.01.26 (5pm)
February	11.02.26	29.01.26 (5pm)
March	18.03.26	05.03.26 (5pm)

Once we have received your response, you will be contacted as soon as possible to confirm attendance.



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### TA Academy: DSPL 9 Support

We were joined by 6 TAs at our first TA dop in before half term. Each TA left the meeting with advice, strategies or resources that they can use following conversations.

*Thank You for this opportunity to discuss helpful strategies. It helped us a lot.*

Please encourage your TAs to access the local TA support as well as the training through the TA academy:

#### Face to Face termly solution circles (at Bournehall Primary School):

	Date and Time	Venue
Autumn 2	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November 1-2.30pm	The Green Room Bournehall Primary, Bournehall Avenue
Spring 2	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 1-2.30pm	The Green Room Bournehall Primary, Bournehall Avenue
Summer 2	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 1-2.30pm	The Green Room Bournehall Primary, Bournehall Avenue

All dates available to book via [this link](#)

#### Spring Term Online check in:

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 1-2pm

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 390 470 898 253 5

Passcode: 3UP6Zy2H

For all TA Academy training opportunities please [click here](#)

# Have A LOOK

## Cognition & Learning Team - Information Literacy Assessments Training

The Cognition and Learning Team are pleased to be able to offer our popular training course, Informal Literacy Assessments after half term in 7 different locations throughout the County. This training is designed to support SENCOs and teaching staff to effectively identify pupils' reading and spelling needs and use this information to set targets for intervention teaching using the Cognition and Learning Team's informal assessments.

### The Course aims to:

- Learn how to use our informal literacy assessments, including *Phonological Awareness* and *Baseline Word Reading and Spelling*.
- Develop confidence in analysing assessment results to pinpoint what to teach next.
- Understand how to review progress and use it to inform future planning.
- 

**What's Included:** All delegates will receive an **e-folder of resources**, including copies of the informal assessments and supporting materials to use in your setting.

This training is ideal for those looking to enhance their understanding of how to identify gaps within pupils' reading and spelling knowledge and tailor interventions more precisely to individual learner needs.

Booking details and information about the different venues are given in the flyer attached.

Also, we still have places available for the Persistent Literacy Difficulties, flyer attached.



**SEND  
ACADEMY**



**EHCP Auditing Sessions  
for SENCOs in DSPL 6, 7, 8 and 9.**

These sessions offer SENCOs the opportunity to audit the quality of an EHCP together with Hertfordshire County Council's SEND Quality Assurance Team, using the Invision360 auditing software, during the spring and summer terms.

**DSPL 8 Venue: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 10:30 – 12:30**

**Gade Family Support Room, Oakleaf Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2JU**

**[BOOK YOUR PLACE HERE](#)**

**DSPL 7 Venue: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 10:30 – 12:30**

**The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, St Albans, AL1 4LW**

**[BOOK YOUR PLACE HERE](#)**

Please note: SENCOs across all 4 DSPLs can attend either of the dates and venues above regardless of the DSPL they are from.

Spaces are limited so please confirm your space through the respective booking links above.



**Updated EHCCos list**

Please note, following the half term, the EHCCo list on the local offer has been updated. If you are unsure who your current EHCCo is please use the link below:

**<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/education-health-and-care-plans/who-should-i-contact-ehcp.aspx>**

## The Graduated Approach – Sharing Practice

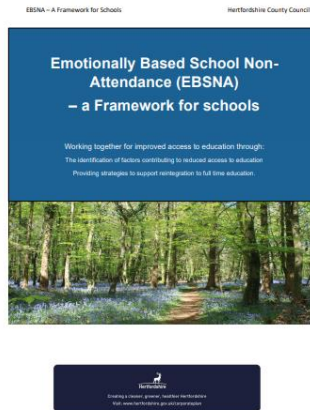
This session will cover:

- The Graduated Approach
- Ordinarily Available/High Quality Teaching
- Reasonable Adjustments
- Sharing practice throughout and opportunities to share and see what other settings are doing

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 13:30-15:30 via MS Teams  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 09:30-11:30 via MS Teams

Please book your space via the [website](#).

If you cannot join this meeting but would like to receive a recording,  
please email [policyandpractice@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:policyandpractice@hertfordshire.gov.uk)



### EBSNA Framework Question and Feedback Session

We would like to invite schools who have been using the new EBSNA Framework to attend this question and feedback sessions, and share their experiences of using the new tool.

Intended outcomes of the session:

- ask any questions following your use of the EBSNA Framework in your setting
- share any feedback about how the questionnaires have been used so far
- share any actions that have been identified through the completion of the questionnaires
- network with other schools and colleagues to share experiences of using the framework

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Time: 1.30-2.30pm

**Microsoft Teams** [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 376 912 630 957 8

Passcode: tB2S5is2

In addition to this session, we are asking any colleagues who have accessed and used the EBSNA framework to complete the google form below to provide feedback around the impact:

<https://forms.gle/E5BcQGpKjexF9BoM6>



# Just Talk Music Campaign Social Media Toolkit

*“Music can support your mental health - it helps you connect, express, and cope. We all have mental health, and it’s okay to not be okay. Support is available and talking helps. Just Talk resources can guide young people, parents, carers and organisations to talk about mental health.”*

Just talk Herts is launching a new campaign on 17th November 2025 called The Power of Music on Mental Health focusing on how music can positively impact mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people in Hertfordshire.

## **About the campaign:**

The power of music encourages students to explore how music can support their emotional wellbeing through listening, creating and sharing music. The campaign includes:

A song and lyric writing competition for young people to express themselves creatively with £50 vouchers for the key stage winners.

Online sessions with Ollie and Electric umbrella

Daily resources and tips shared via our social media channels

## **How your organisation can get involved:**

We’d love your support in promoting this campaign to your students. Our social media partners, Redmoor, have created a comprehensive resource pack to make this as easy as possible for you.

## **Attached, you’ll find:**

Campaign poster and graphics for noticeboards and digital screens.

Social media assets (images and suggested hashtags)

Information about the song/lyric writing competition

Details of online sessions

Web content that can be added to your school website or newsletters

## **Ways to support:**

Display campaign materials

Share information about the competition and online sessions with students

Include campaign content in your newsletters

Post about the campaign on your social media channels

Encourage students and parents/carers to follow us

on Facebook: [JustTalkHerts](#) Instagram: [@JustTalkHerts](#) Twitter: [@JustTalkHerts](#)

Encourage students and parents/carers to follow us on Facebook: JustTalkHerts Instagram: @JustTalkHerts Twitter: @JustTalkHerts

Music is a powerful tool for emotional wellbeing and this campaign provides an opportunity to engage students in positive conversations about mental health. We hope that your organisation will join us in empowering young people to discover how music can support their mental health.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please don’t hesitate to get in touch at [justTalk@Hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:justTalk@Hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Please see attached documents for further information.



### Protective Behaviours training courses

- **Level 1 – Online 1 & 8 December 2025**, £245 + Vat includes Level 1 book and certificate. This is an Open Access course for anyone wanting to learn about Protective Behaviours and ways to apply it. (only 5 places available) [Please click here for the booking form ....](#)
- **Level 2 – Online 18, 19 & 26 March 2026** £445 + Vat includes workbook and certificate. This course is for anyone trained at Level 1 wishing to progress, deepen and broaden their PBs knowledge, practice and application of the process. For anyone wanting to apply to become a PB parent course facilitator, this level is required. [Please click here for booking form ....](#)
- **Facilitator training.** For anyone wanting to deliver our evidence based PB parent course online or in person within their setting. This course will run after the March Level 2 in the summer term 2026 tbc. Please email [admin@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk](mailto:admin@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk) for more details and to add your name to our waiting list.



### Show and Tell session

Dear Mental Health Lead,

You are invited to join the EMWiE Team on **Thursday 13 November 2025**, from **1pm to 2.30pm** for a 90-minute session which will showcase some of the fantastic mental health practice witnessed in schools over the last academic year. Through completing the Emotional Mental Wellbeing in Schools Mark, settings have demonstrated some **wonderful examples of good practice**, aligning to the eight Department for Education principles outlined in the paper [Promoting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#).

Many of these ideas can be replicated in other settings with no, or very little cost - or even a simple change in thinking and processes.

To join the session, please use [this Teams meeting link](#) or alternatively let us know you'd like to attend and we'll send on the invitation!



### Young Carers in school awareness

Children's Services and are keen to raise awareness of young carers in schools. Currently, 60% of schools in Hertfordshire reported that there were no young carers in their school, yet national statistics estimate that there are two young carers in every classroom. Although identifying young carers was added to the Spring school census for state schools in England from January 2023, many schools are failing to identify and support them.

Young Carers are classed as a vulnerable group. There is much support out there on how to identify and support young carers in schools, but schools are unaware of how to access this.

This [website here](#) by HCT NHS is a great support for schools in identifying and supporting young carers in schools. There is also the [Young Carers in Schools website](#) which has a [step-by-step download guide](#) and information on how to achieve the young carers in schools award.



## UK Youth Parliament

Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People is currently assessing the level of interest among young people aged 11 to 18 in standing as candidates for election to the UK Youth Parliament.

This initiative presents an opportunity for young people to engage in democratic representation, amplify the voice of young people, and influence decisions on matters that affect them. At this stage, we are seeking to gauge interest and identify potential candidates who may wish to learn more about the role and responsibilities of a Member of Youth Parliament (MYP).

We would be grateful for your support in promoting this opportunity to your young people by:

- Circulating the attached promotional poster within your team and wider networks
- Encouraging young people to submit our online expression of interest form on the Services for Young People website: [UK Youth Parliament](#)

### Who can be a Member of Youth Parliament?

To stand in the election and become an MYP, young people must be aged 11-18 and live, work, be educated or volunteer in Hertfordshire.

### How long does a MYP term last?

MYPs have a two-year term of office. The term of office will run from 1 April to 31 March every two years.

### Role of an MYP

This is what the National Youth Work Agency (NYA) say about the role of MYPs

Once elected, MYPs meet with decision makers, organise events, run campaigns, make speeches, hold debates, and ensure the views of young people are listened to by decision makers. The most important aspect of any MYP's job is to make sure they represent the views of the young people in their constituency. The UK Youth Parliament is a democratic programme that is made up of young representatives. MYPs should support youth voices and actively engage with young people in their constituency, reporting back to them on a regular basis. An MYP's duty is towards; the young people who voted for them, the young people who didn't vote for them and every young person in their constituency. The UK Youth Parliament will ensure that the young people of the United Kingdom are given a voice on any issue that affects them, as laid out in Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

MYPs are expected to promote the positive work of the UK Youth Parliament, attend and participate in events and meetings (from locally to UK wide). They are also expected to feed into and vote on the UK Youth Parliament's policy process to create UK campaigns which they should support, following a democratic process, as part of the programme's collective voice.

To arrange a visit please contact Katie Fineman, [Katie.Fineman@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Katie.Fineman@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or Heather Wallace, [Heather.Wallace@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Heather.Wallace@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Please don't hesitate to contact me for more information or visit [UK Youth Parliament](#).