



Delivering Special
Provision Locally



DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 7

10.12.25



This will be the last newsletter for the autumn term.

Thank you for your continued support and hard work. I am sure you will agree that this has been a busy term, but despite this, as always you have continued to support the SEND CYP you work with to ensure their needs are met and their voices are heard.

Have a wonderful Christmas break and a well deserved rest. See you all in 2026!



DSPL 9 SENCo Clusters: Spring 2026

Please see below for the spring term SENCo cluster dates and times. We have a host of services joining us for the events and further details will be sent in the new year.

	Spring 2026
Cluster 1	Tuesday 27 th January 1-3pm Shepherd
Cluster 2	Wednesday 21 st January 9.30-11.30am Laurence Haines
Cluster 3	Wednesday 21 st January 1-3pm Highwood
Cluster 4	Wednesday 14 th January 1-3pm St Pauls
Cluster 5	Thursday 29 th January 1-3 Bushey Meads

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

PLEASE NOTE: The final session will take place on Tuesday, 16 December. Service will resume on Tuesday, 6 January.



Primary SpLD Online Pupil Focus Surgeries Academic Year 2025-26

Laura Bloomberg will continue to provide primary SpLD Online Pupil Focus Surgeries during the spring term.

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

Bookings for the spring term are now available (9-9.30am or 9.30-10am):

Monday 12 th January	Monday 23 rd February
Monday 19 th January	Monday 2 nd March
Monday 26 th January	Monday 9 th March
Monday 26 th January	Monday 16 th March
Monday 2 nd February	Monday 23 rd March
Monday 9 th February	

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

<https://forms.gle/9SjqxvEv7tTpfVAp7>

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.

SENCOs are also reminded of the SpLD drop box for DSPL 9 which contains a range of assessment materials and resources:

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>



EBSNA Training Session

Following the successful delivery of the second TA Academy training session this term, please find below links to the recording and slides:

Recording:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18EajA3IJErwJISDlxfQWdKcgP3T7VtGP/view?usp=sharing>

Slides:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/19aZgiy_LlyqVC9dBHP0HgQ8NPwLBwS3Y/view?usp=sharing

The following information was also shared during the session:

[understanding-autism-a-brief-guide-for-parents-carers-and-professionals](#)

[autism-what-does-that-mean-to-me-a-guide-for-young-people](#)

[Welcome to Barriers to Education](#)

[School Wellbeing Cards Videos](#)



Spring Term Support

After a highly successful autumn term, the TA Academy is excited to continue supporting our community with new training opportunities, online drop-ins, and collaborative solution circles this spring.

Please share the information below with your TAs and support them in accessing this support:

SPRING TERM 2026:

Training Opportunities

Wednesday 28th January - Cognition and Learning support in the classroom

[Cognition and Learning Booking Link](#)

Tuesday 17th March - Positive Behaviour Support strategies

[Positive behaviour support Booking Link](#)

Online Drop In Session

Thursday 22nd January 1-2pm

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Face to Face Solution Circle

Thursday 5th March 1-2.30pm

[Booking Link](#)

Feedback from the solution circle:

My LAs have come back buzzing from the experience. They felt that they had learnt such a lot in such a short time and that their ideas had been listened to and valued. They felt that the process used on the large sheet was one they felt would be useful to try and do ourselves. They felt that it had been clearly delivered. They did say they felt it was a shame there weren't other schools there as they felt they might have picked up some good ideas from other LAs.

LOOK

DSPL 9 LHNF dates: Spring Term

LHNF Panel Dates	Closing Date for Applications
Thursday 22nd January 2026	8th January (5pm)
Wednesday 11th February 2026	27th Jan (5pm)
Wednesday 18th March	3rd March (5pm)

Please ensure you have the correct dates in your diaries for the deadlines.

Calling all new SENCOs!!

Hertfordshire SENCO induction programme: Spring Cohort

The Hertfordshire SENCO induction programme is now taking bookings for the spring term cohort.

If you have a new SENCO joining you in the spring term, an assistant SENCO or interim SENCO who would benefit from accessing this support, please click on the correct link below and book a space for the new year.

- [Hertfordshire SENCO induction programme \(Newtorole\)-Spring26](#)
- [Hertfordshire SENCO induction programme \(New to Herts\) - Spring 2026](#)
- [Hertfordshire SENCO induction programme \(NewtoDSPL\)-Spring26](#)

PLEASE NOTE: The DSPL 9 session of the programme will be held on Tuesday 24th February from 1-3pm at The Green Room, Bournehall Primary school.



Sent on behalf of the SEND Provision Team

You are invited to join one of our **SENCO SEND Provision Briefings** being held on:

- **Thursday, 12th February | 16:00 – 16:45**
- **Wednesday, 25th February | 16:00 – 16:45**

These sessions will provide a clear overview of the work underway to shape our new SEND Provision Strategy, focusing on strengthening local SEND provision and our shared mission with mainstream schools to lead meaningful change.

We will cover:

- The current SEND landscape and why local provision matters
- Where gaps exist across the county
- Support available for schools
- How you can get involved and help build a collective solution

If you have any accessibility needs, please email Keeley.groves@hertfordshire.gov.uk so that she can make the necessary arrangements.

You can join either of the briefings on Teams via the links below:

- [Thursday 12th February 2026 16:00-16:45](#)
- [Wednesday 25th February 2026 16:00-16:45](#)

Hertfordshire Autism Training

Spring Term Training Programme

Please find attached a number of flyers from the SLCA team, these include:

- Level 2 Spring 2026
- Level 3 Lite Bites
- All workshops
- HAT ECT

Don't forget to share these flyers with your colleagues.

All flyers can also be found on the [DSPL 9 website](#).



Hertfordshire Speech, Language and Communication Needs Training

"SLCN and learning – essential training for teachers by teachers"

The new dates for the SLCN training have been confirmed for the spring term:

SLCN and Behaviour (Secondary only): Thursday 26th Feb, 9.30-11.30 (via MS Teams)

SLCN in the Primary Classroom: Tuesday 10th March, 9.30-11.30 (via MS Teams)

SLCN in the Secondary Classroom: Tuesday 24th March, 9.30-11.30 (via MS Teams)

Please see the attached flyers for all details including how to book.



**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 12th 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 2nd 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.

CYPT Early Years Speech & Language Therapy: November Updates 2025

1. Early Years Training: Autumn 2025/Spring 2026

Please see attached flyer showing the CYPT training courses available to Early Years Practitioners in the Autumn 2025/Spring 2026.

The training courses are FREE and bookable via the CYPT [website](#). To support attendance, if you are booking a course on behalf of someone else, please ensure you share the booking confirmation details with the person attending the course.

2. New Webinars!

Please see a summary of the webinars available to families, settings and professionals below. In particular, please see our new “**SPEECH Sounds**” and “**Say Show Wait**” webinars:

- Early Language Development
FOLLOW: 6 key strategies to use with children in your setting who need support to develop their **language** skills. [Watch the Promoting Communication Webinar here](#)



- Social interaction and communication
JOIN: 4 key strategies to use with children who have **social interaction** differences. [Watch here](#)



Eating, or body image worries? Learn how First Steps ED can help.

On **Monday 26 January 2026 at 1.30pm**, join First Steps ED in a 30-minute schools webinar as they provide an in depth understanding of the breadth of help available, and who the right referrals are. **This session will be recorded.**

[Join the meeting now](#)

or email shelley.woods@hertfordshire.gov.uk for the calendar invitation to be sent direct.

But who are First Steps ED?

Do you know of a child, or young person has a tricky relationship with food or body image? First Steps ED is Hertfordshire's free to access, early help specialist charity commissioned to support children and young people aged 5-18 who are experiencing eating disorders or related difficulties.

They provide a comprehensive range of person-centred support services including:

- One-on-one sessions
- Online group workshops
- Email or video befriending
- Free self-help resources

With no waiting list for help, First Steps ED welcomes referrals from professionals, education staff, parents, carers, and young people themselves.

The service is designed to be accessible to all young people, regardless of whether they have a formal eating disorder diagnosis or experience issues with weight, and as an early intervention service, First Steps ED aims to support individuals at any stage of their journey, even if their difficulties are perceived as minor by others.

To make a referral please visit www.firststepsed.co.uk or call 0300 1021685.

Children's wellbeing practitioners Workshops
January-March 2026

Please find attached the Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops leaflet, which provides a list of all the emotional wellbeing workshops being delivered by the team from January to March 2026.

Workshops are delivered virtually on Microsoft Teams. They are free to access, and families can sign up to attend via Eventbrite.



Looking for FREE healthy lifestyle support for families and young people in Hertfordshire?

Our Beezee Families, Beezee Youth and HENRY programmes are here to help!

Previously known as BeeZee Bodies, Beezee is now the name given to healthy lifestyle programmes delivered by Maximus, and we continue to partner with HENRY. All our programmes are funded by Hertfordshire County Council's Public Health team.

- **HENRY** programmes support babies and young children to have a healthy start for a brighter future. Parents and carers of children under 5 years gain the confidence and skills to adopt healthier lifestyles, long-term. A free creche is available throughout the 8-week programme!
- **Beezee Families** is an award-winning 12-week programme for 5 – 15 year olds and their families. Our team of nutritionists focus on making small, sustainable changes around food and physical activity – and have fun while doing so! Families can also learn at their own pace for six months over on our Academy. Alternatively, they can access our 1:1 support throughout the year.
- **Beezee Youth** is aimed at young people aged 13-17. This 8-week programme is co-produced by participants and helps them discover practical strategies to improve their physical, mental and social wellbeing in a non-judgemental environment ONLINE. Young people can also learn at their own pace over on the Academy for six months, accessing content specially designed for them.

SIGN UPS for our Spring Term 2026 programmes are now OPEN!

Support is available in-person and online. [Professionals](#) can refer families and young people to these programmes, or [families and young people](#) can sign up directly.

Please see attached flyers attached for further information.