



Delivering Special Provision Locally



## DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 12

18.03.26



### DSPL 9 End of financial year survey 2025-26

Thank you to the 53 schools, colleagues and parents who have responded to the DSPL 9 End of Financial Survey 25-26 so far.

If you have not done so already please complete the short google form by following the link below:

<https://forms.gle/aB1rwxoRKwjJTHYB8>

Your feedback is incredibly important to us and enables us as a service to celebrate the areas that are working well and consider how we can improve in the next year. If there is a member of staff better suited to complete the survey please share this email. Previous feedback has led to new initiatives being developed and training/workshops facilitated in response to local need.

**Deadline: Friday 27th March**



Delivering Special Provision Locally



DSPL9 Delivering Special Provision Locally

# SEND Information Fair 2026




Monday 27th April 2026  
The Stanborough Centre, St Albans Road

Professionals attend: 8.30-11.30am  
Parents attend: 12.30-3.00pm



FLYERS COMING SOON.....



### The DSPL 9 Lending Library is now open

Please use the link below to access and register:

<https://dsplarea9.lend-engine-app.com/>

As part of the registration you will be asked to read and agree to the terms and. Please can I ask that you DO read this as it contains information regarding loss or damage to equipment.

To support you in registering and navigating the lending library website, Jen has created a short video and document:

**Getting Started with the DSPL 9 Lending Library: Registration and Borrowing Guide** - [Watch Video](#)

A guide is also attached to this email.

Any questions please contact [admin@dsplarea9.org.uk](mailto:admin@dsplarea9.org.uk)

## READ PLEASE



### Focused Intervention Funding: Summer term

Last week information was circulated regarding the processes around FIF, if you have not accessed this yet please use the link below to ensure you are aware of how the process will work in the summer term:

DSPL 9 FIF Information Document March 2026:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RCq50A5T1JpHXHwHWIOyHHkw7BydycFZ/view?usp=sharing>

Please see the information below regarding the 1<sup>st</sup> FIF clusters in the summer term:

#### Summer Term 1

Cluster	Date	Time	Venue
1	29.04.26	2-3pm	Christchurch
2	29.04.26	10.30-11.30am	Beechfield
3	22.04.26	10.30-11.30am	Merry Hill
4	22.04.26	2-3pm	Divine Saviour
5	30.04.26	2-3pm	The Reach Free

Please note the FIF cluster is part of the half term SENCo cluster meeting, therefore SENCos are expected to attend the full length of the meetings (see below) to cover the DSPL 9 update and FIF cluster:

AM session: 9.30-11,30am (FIF cluster 10.30-11.30am)

PM session 1-3pm (FIF cluster 2-3pm)

**The deadline for FIF applications is 15.04.26 and ALL applications MUST be sent to the email addresses provided on the information document.**



### Changes to High Needs Local Funding Webinar: Recording

For those of you who missed the Changes to High Needs Local Funding webinar please use the link below to access the recording:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/extranets/send-academy-members/changes-to-high-needs-local-funding.aspx#>

**KS3 Project:  
Meeting the needs of students working at pre KS2  
Engagement Event**

Mainstream Secondary schools are invited to attend an event to learn more about the Key Stage 3 project and how it can support schools in meeting the needs of students in Year 7 in both maths and English.

The afternoon will provide an overview of the project, along with access to a range of activities/tasters designed to engage your interest and illustrate its potential impact.

Tasters to include:

- KS1 maths taster session
- KS1 English taster session
- Sensory diet taster session
- Secondary pathway taster session
- Transition support session

**Date: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**Time: 3.45-5.30pm**

**Venue: Garston Manor School, Horseshoe Lane, Watford, WD25 7HR**

Please note: parking is limited on school premises, please park across the road at Woodside Leisure Centre (free for 4 hours - you need a ticket).

Potential audience at this event:

- SENCo
- Head of Maths/KS3
- Head of English/KS3
- Members of SLT
- HOY 7/Year 7 Transition Lead
- LSA/TA/HTLA

Following attendance at the event and if you are interested in engaging in the project you will be asked to complete an expression of interest.

To book your place, please use the link below:

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/2101152>



**DSPL 9 SENCo Drop in sessions**

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



### DSPL 9 Specialist Secondary Transition Support

Please be reminded that the deadline for secondary transition referrals is **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**.

For more information on how to access the above, please contact Lisa directly on:

[Lisasillitoe@dsplarea9.org.uk](mailto:Lisasillitoe@dsplarea9.org.uk)



### DSPL 9 EBSA solution circle: date change

Please note there has been a date change to the scheduled EBSA solution circle due to take place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April. This session will now take place on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 1-2.30pm**.

To book on the EBSA solution circle on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, please use the link below:

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/1778138>



### DSPL 9 EBSA support: Tier 3 Solution Circles: Transition Focus

During the latter part of the summer term, DSPL 9 will be offering weekly transition focused solution circles to provide an opportunity for school colleagues to discuss particular children and young people who are/will struggle with the transition. Sessions will run from 1-2.30pm and allow for 3 cases to be discussed at each session.

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July

**To book an EBSA Transition Solution Circle please click [here](#)**

**NB: This opportunity would work best if the primary and secondary school attend the session to enable conversations around the transition from year 6 to year 7 to take place.**



### DSPL 9/Chessbrook SEMH Solution Circles: Summer Term

To access these useful sessions please complete the google form below. You will then be offered a date and time to attend (all sessions are virtual and run from 3.30-4.30pm).

[SEMh Solution Circle Referral Form](#)

Summer Term	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Primary
	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Primary
	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Secondary
	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Primary



### Primary SpLD Online Pupil Focus Surgeries Summer Term

Primary SpLD online pupil focus surgeries with Laura Bloomberg will continue in the summer term.

The purpose of these sessions is to help schools support pupils of concern (**SpLD in nature: literacy and Maths**), 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 summer term are now available:

Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June
	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July

Please ensure you have completed the google form BEFORE booking a place to attend a SpLD Surgery.

<https://forms.gle/vTQAN1RnAk1KqyBa9>

#### 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>

## Children and Young Peoples Speech and Language Therapy Service: summer training

Please find attached all the information around summer training opportunities from the HCT CYP therapy services. These include EYs, face to face and virtual training.

### Children & Young Peoples Speech & Language Therapy Service

#### Training available to book for Summer Term 2026 suitable for Early Years staff and settings

Face to face

Virtual

★ Talking with Children

★ Social Communication in the Early Years

★ Instant Access webinars on FOLLOW, JOIN and more!

WellComm

Supporting Bilingual CYP

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)

Stammering

Making Language visible

★ Essential training for all Early Years staff to attend is marked with a star

### Children & Young Peoples Speech & Language Therapy Service

#### Face to face training available to book Summer Term 2026

Making Language Visible

Using the WellComm toolkit (2 parts)

Language for thinking

Vocabulary development in Primary schools

Don't forget to check out our webinars



Please scan the QR code or use this link: [speech and language therapy, speech, language, Children's speech and language therapy, speech therapy, SALT, SLT | Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust \(hct.nhs.uk\)](https://www.hertfordshire.nhs.uk/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy) to find out more information and to book on.

### Children & Young Peoples Speech & Language Therapy Service

#### Virtual Training available to book Summer Term 2026

Social Communication in the Early Years

Social Communication for school aged children

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) 2-part training

Storytelling in schools (Narrative)

Talking with Children

Supporting Bilingual children in school

Setting up Small Steps programmes for CYP with Selective Mutism

Supporting CYP who Stammer



Are you looking for local activities and SEND services for a child or young person with SEND?

The SEND community activities directory promotes a wide range of local activities and support groups. Some activities will also include discounts for families registered with a Herts Card (SEND).

We will be adding additional activities on a regular basis.

If there are any activities you know of or wish to see promoted through this directory please email us on: [SENDcommissioning@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:SENDcommissioning@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Find fun, inclusive activities your child will love – all in one place! [Explore the SEND community directory](#)



### The Hertfordshire Local Offer

The Hertfordshire Local Offer provides information on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities services that are available within Hertfordshire and who can access them.

Scan the code to visit 'The Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer'



### Send Strategy Programme

Hertfordshire are continually looking to improve services they deliver for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Scan the QR code to see 'Hertfordshire's SEND Strategy 2022 - 2025'



### Sign up!

Please scan the QR code or visit Hertfordshire Family Centre Service ([hertsfamilycentres.org](https://hertsfamilycentres.org))



### What's On

Scan the QR code to find out what's on near you, or visit [www.hertsfamilycentres.org](https://www.hertsfamilycentres.org)



### Instagram

Scan the QR code to discover our Instagram account, or search for @hertsfamilycentreservice



### Subscribe to our newsletter!

Scan the QR code to subscribe to our monthly newsletter for families, Talk & Tips

Telephone Number: 0300 123 7572  
Website: [hertsfamilycentres.org](https://hertsfamilycentres.org)

## The Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Champions are here to support you



Here for young people  
Here for communities  
Here for you



### CYPMHS March Newsletter

There is a range of information in this month's issue including:

- Sandbox resources and groups for coping with stress and anxiety
- Spring into action for wellbeing!
- Together we can grow happy and healthy in Herts
- Anna Freud newsletter

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



Different Belongs is a neurodiversity toolkit for teachers. Below you will discover a set of resources for teachers to use in primary schools to help all children understand Autism and ADHD. The resources are aimed at Years 5 and 6, but can be adapted for other age groups.

This project is the result of co-production with Autistic and ADHD children and young people and professionals from ADD-vance and Nessie. It has been funded by Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS.

These resources are designed to help children and young people learn about neurodivergence in a way that is respectful, positive, and affirming.

To find out more and access the resources please use the link below:

<https://www.add-vance.org/different-belongs/>



### What is The Bridge?

The Bridge is a support group designed for parents, carers and young people in school years 6,7 and 8 who are struggling with school attendance. This includes those who are not attending school at all or on a significantly reduced timetable.

### Purpose of The Bridge?

The group aims to provide a safe and supportive environment where families can:

- Share experiences
- Receive emotional and practical support
- Build confidence and resilience

### Topics Covered

- Anxiety and worries related to school.
- Friendships and social dynamics
- Health and wellbeing
- Neurodiversity
- The Future

### Who is running the group?

The sessions are facilitated by Alison and Karina from the Intensive Family Support Team, working alongside a range of specialist professionals who offer tailored insights and support.

### Session Details

Sessions will run for 12 weeks starting on Thursday 16th April 2026—9th July 2026

Time: 12:30pm-2:30pm

Where: Welwyn Garden City Cricket Club, 288 Knightsfield, WGC, AL8 7NQ

Please contact Alison or Karina with any questions:

Alison.cowie@hertfordshire.gov.uk or karina.saunders@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Please see attached flyer and referral form.

**Neurodiversity Training dates:**

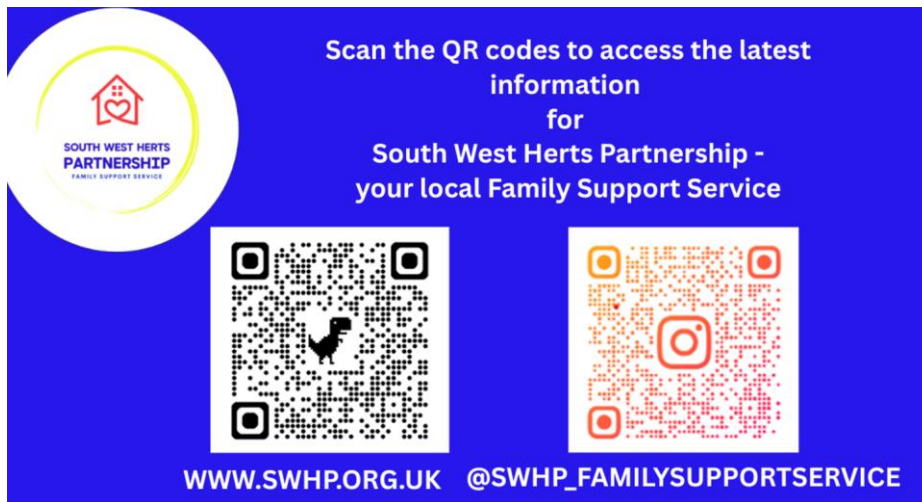
13 May 2026 10-12pm  
9 September 2026 10-12pm  
4 November 2026 10-12pm  
10 February 2027 10-12 pm

**Aim of the Course: This is a multi-agency course giving practitioners from a range of agencies the opportunity to explore neurodiversity in vulnerable children and young people.**

**Learning Outcomes:**

- To be able to recognise neurodiverse conditions in children and young people.
- To increase confidence in supporting neurodivergent children and young people.
- To raise awareness of neurodiverse children's' profiles of need.
- To explore potential barriers to working with and supporting children and young people with disabilities.
- To consider reasonable adjustments and consent for neurodiverse children and young people, and their families to access appropriate support.

Please do visit our training platform to secure your place- [website](#)



Scan the QR codes to access the latest information for South West Herts Partnership - your local Family Support Service

WWW.SWHP.ORG.UK @SWHP\_FAMILY SUPPORTSERVICE

Following SWHPs attendance at the spring term SENCo clusters please see the QR codes above to keep both schools and parents up to date with support and signposting available from the service.