



Delivering Special
Provision Locally



DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 13

15.04.26



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DSPL9 SEND Information Fair.

Monday 27th April 8.30am -11.30am
The Stanborough Centre , St Albans Rd, WD25 9JL



We are delighted that a wide range of fantastic local services will be in attendance to share their work and the support available.



In addition there will be 3 optional workshops to choose from as well as the event providing great networking opportunities.
We'd love to see you there!



Please use the link below to confirm your attendance and to book an optional workshop.
Refreshments available!



<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/2132320>

Focused Intervention Funding

All the information regarding the new Focused Intervention Funding can now be found on the DSPL 9 website:

[Focused Intervention Funding \(FIF\)](#)

Information includes:

- FIF Guidance
- FIF Application Form
- Which Cluster am I in?
- Dates and deadlines

Please note:

All applications for Early Years Enhanced Provision Funding must be sent using the email below.

These applications will be sent to the EYs SEND TEAM Panel to be considered. These application will not be part of the primary/secondary clusters.

DSPL9EYEPF@bournehall.herts.sch.uk

Should you have any further queries or questions please contact gemmahall@dsplarea9.org.uk



DSPL9/HFL Summer Term SEND Briefing

The final HFL SEND briefing for this academic year will be taking place Wednesday 24th June 1.30-3.30pm at Rickmansworth School

[DSPL Briefings Booking Form](#)



DSPL 9 SENCo Drop in sessions

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 3.45-4.30pm

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



The Hertfordshire SEND Local Area Partnership has developed a [SEND Provision Plan 2026-29](#) which supports the delivery of the [new SEND Strategy for 2026–2029](#). The strategy sets out our shared ambitions to improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

More children and young people in Hertfordshire are requiring additional support at school, many presenting with increasingly more complex needs than in the past. Families have consistently told us they want clearer pathways and better local options. In response, this Special Education, Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Provision Plan outlines how we will strengthen support in local schools, increase specialist provision where it is needed, and ensure every child receives the right help, in the right place, at the right time.

Feedback gathered so far has helped identify key priorities and has informed the five core elements of the draft SEND Provision Plan:

- Strengthen capacity in mainstream schools
- Expand specialist capacity in mainstream schools
- Create more special school places
- Update special school designations
- Child centred placements

As part of the SEND Provision Consultation running from 23 March to 15 June 2026, we are seeking your views on whether the plan reflects your priorities, and how it can be further strengthened before it is finalised.

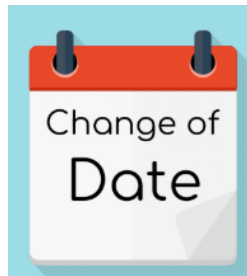
You can share your feedback by completing a [short survey](#) or by attending one of our consultation events. All details on how to get involved are available on the Local Offer: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDProvisionPlan

Thank you for your time, your views are important to us. All responses will be carefully considered and will directly influence the final SEND Provision Plan for 2026–2029.

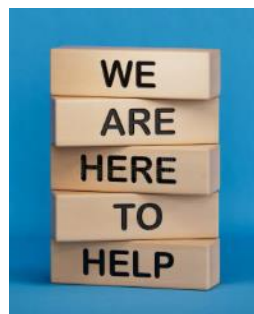
Hertfordshire Autism Training: Summer Term

The HAT offer for the summer term will continue to provide all school colleagues with a range of opportunities to upskill and develop their knowledge across a range of topics.

Please see the attached flyer to discover what is on offer this term.



Due to unforeseen circumstances the **EYs SENCo forum** will need to move from Tuesday 21st April to **Tuesday 5th May from 10-11am**. The teams invite and agenda for this will be sent out in the next few weeks.



DSPL 9

Benchmarking and Planning Tool Survey Completion Opportunity Drop in Session

The survey provided by HFL will go live on Tuesday 5th May and close on Friday 26th June to provide SENCos with enough time to complete before the end of term. Data from the survey helps to inform HCC and DSPLs future planning.

To enable a large number of SENCos to complete the HFL Benchmarking and Planning Tool survey, DSPL 9 would like to provide you with dedicated time and refreshments to enable this to happen.

Date: Wednesday 3rd June 2026

Time: 1-3.30pm

Venue: The Green Room @ Bournehall Primary School

Refreshments (including cake) will be available to help you through the survey.

[Please click on this link to book your space.](#)

NB: If you are unable to join us on the above date please be reminded that there is still an expectation that you complete the survey within the timeframe mentioned.

If you have any questions around the Benchmarking and Planning Tool please contact Gemma Hall
gemmahall@dsplarea9.org.uk

Hertfordshire Speech, Language and Communication Needs Training

“SLCN and learning – essential training for teachers by teachers”

Please find attached flyers for primary and secondary training from the SLCN team during the summer term.

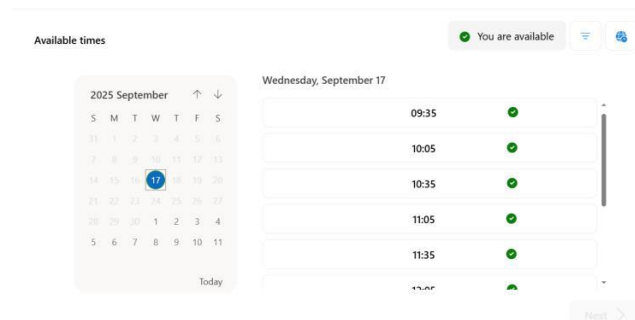


Spring DROP-IN SESSIONS for Early Years settings in DSPL's 6 and 9 with Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Specialist Dominique Johnson:

Wednesday 22nd April 2026 EWB Drop in
Thursday 7th May 2026 EWB Drop in
Monday 18th May 2026 EWB Drop in
Wednesday 3rd June 2026 EWB Drop in
Thursday 18th June 2026 EWB Drop in
Tuesday 30th June 2026 EWB Drop in
Wednesday 15th July 2026 EWB Drop in

Please see the flyer for links to book a time slot on the days above.

If you would like advice around planning for Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour in the Early Years, please click the preferred date to book a 30-minute MS Teams time slot. Once in the booking system, please access the calendar and click on the relevant date which will then give you available time slots.



Strategies for Pupils with Writing Difficulties

A 2 hour *face to face* practical session for
Primary SENCOs,
Class Teachers and TAs



Training delivered by experienced Specialist Advisory Teachers for Cognition and Learning for school staff supporting pupils with writing difficulties in a primary setting

Spaces are still available to access this training. Please see the attached flyer for all dates and booking information.



For Designated Teachers-New SaLT referral process for Children Looked after by Hertfordshire.

If you have any Speech, Language or Communication concerns regarding a Hertfordshire Child Looked After(CLA) attending your school, you can now refer direct to our Herts Virtual School Speech & Language Therapist, Ruth Blake.

Please complete the attached screening form and return it by email, marked **SLT / CLA** in the subject to hct.cypspecialistservices@nhs.net

Please note this replaces our usual referral SaLT pathway but **only** applies to a child or young person who is looked after by Hertfordshire CC. All other children should be referred to the SaLT service using our online referral form on the HCT website.



THE EDUCATION HUB

*Promoting the education of children
with a social worker*

SUPPORTING CONCERNS AROUND:

Education & Attainment
Attendance
Transition
SEND & EHCPs
Risk of exclusion
Health
SEMH

An information and advice service for Social Care and Education colleagues for students known to Children's Services on CP/CiN plans age 0-18.

Contact us:

education.hub@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Parent advice around EBSNA

The EMWiE team have created a useful flyer to share with parents of children and young people experiencing EBSNA. Please share the attached flyer across your school community.

INFORMATION AND ADVICE ABOUT EMOTIONALLY BASED SCHOOL NON-ATTENDANCE (EBSNA) FOR FAMILIES

EBSNA can affect children and young people of any school age. It can happen as a result of a wide range of different factors – home, wider family, community, school, friendships – often a combination of some or all of these.

WHY COULD MY CHILD BE ANXIOUS?

Anxieties can stem from a number of things such as:

- An unmet special educational need such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia or dyspraxia
- Friendship issues, not 'fitting in', or bullying
- Finding schoolwork confusing and overwhelming
- Separation anxiety
- Trauma
- Bereavement
- Low self-esteem
- The environment itself - especially for those who are autistic and/or neurodivergent

A child might become anxious about school at any stage. It can occur when children start school or transition into secondary school, or it might be related to puberty or hormonal changes. Read more on the [Local Offer website](#).

WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS

- ? Can you spot patterns in your child's absence from school, e.g. certain days/activities?
- ? Does your child regularly say they don't want to go to school, or reluctant/delaying going to school?
- ? Does your child struggle with changes to environment, routine or stimulus?
- ? Are there physical symptoms on school days e.g. tummy aches, feeling sick, headaches?

(NB please always check with a GP to rule out any medical cause or illness).

WHAT TO DO









- 👍 Ask for a meeting with your child's school involving someone who knows your child e.g. class teacher, pastoral lead, SENCo. Be prepared by taking along any notes about the things your child finds difficult.
- 👍 Work together with school to build a child centred plan that understands the underlying problems which are making your child feel anxious about going to school. This could include adjustments to help your child access their education. There are tools which can help such as [Hertfordshire's EBSNA Framework](#).
- 👍 Include your child's voice in any plan as they are more likely to be able to stick to it. Check in after a while and review it with your school to see what is working well and what is not.
- 👍 Do advocate for your child's needs but also understand the limitations as to what your school might be able to do.
- 👍 If the agreed strategies are not working, speak again with your school to identify other services and professionals that might be able to support your child. The [Herts Hub](#) has a wealth of mental health signposting and ideas for early help.

STRATEGIES TO TRY AT HOME

- ✓ Develop a plan for the evenings, which can include calming activities before bedtime e.g. gentle music, bath, story or reading.
- ✓ Also plan for the morning, and where possible get things ready for the next day the night before (school bag, lunch box etc).
- ✓ Make a diary which includes your child's worries and also identifies positives and what works well.
- ✓ Respond with empathy whilst encouraging small, manageable steps.
- ✓ Visual timetables at home and school might also help.

REMEMBER...

- 🕒 With the right plan in place, being in school supports your child's academic progress, social development and mental wellbeing.
- 🕒 Small steps are often big wins.
- 🕒 ...also ensure that you find ways to support your own wellbeing in the process.



Network Event

Wednesday 29th April 2026

4.15 - 5.45pm



Venue: *Amwell View School*

Station Road, Stanstead Abbots, Herts, SG12 8EH

Amwell View School have set up a network of mainstream primary schools, nurseries and pre-schools who are interested in or are currently developing the inclusive practice within their setting. Amwell View's leadership team organise termly network meetings with a focus topic, previous topics have included 'Sensory Integration', 'Communication', 'Attention Autism' and 'Sensory Stories'.

Please see attached flyer for further information and how to book.

How do you identify mental health and emotional wellbeing needs in your pupils?

Is this a topic you'd love more confidence in, or simply some renewed ideas for making your tracking less time consuming and more insightful?

On **Wednesday 20 May 2026 at 1.00pm**, join the EMWiE Team for the fourth session in our webinar series as we invite a variety of Hertfordshire education settings to spend 45 minutes sharing the measures they are using, what the data tells them, the benefits of tracking interventions and how this informs future support. During the session you'll also hear more about various tools, including The Boxall Profile and Motional.

This session will be recorded and shared in the days following.

Use this link to [join the meeting](#) or email shelley.woods@hertfordshire.gov.uk for the calendar invitation to be sent direct.

What are some of the innovative ways that education is tackling bullying?

And how can we help children acquire life skills such as conflict resolution, understand the difference between unkindness and bullying, and have the courage to speak out against others?

On **Wednesday 17 June 2026 at 1.00pm**, join the EMWiE Team for the fifth session in our webinar series as we invite a variety of Hertfordshire education settings to spend 45 minutes sharing the innovative ideas they have implemented to support children to restore and repair, develop their own anti bullying policies, report worrying instances and take a whole school/year/form/class approach to tackling bullying and make school a place to feel safe in.

This session will be recorded and shared in the days following.

Use this link to [join the meeting](#) or email shelley.woods@hertfordshire.gov.uk for the calendar invitation to be sent direct.



Following a successful programme delivering support to Children and Young people, Add-vance and Nessie have created a project called 'Different Belongs', a neurodiversity toolkit for teachers. It offers a set of resources for teachers to use in primary schools to help all children understand Autism and ADHD with a strong emphasis on the **voice of the child**. The resources are aimed at Years 5 and 6, but can be adapted for other age groups. The resources are designed to help children and young people learn about neurodivergence in a way that is respectful, positive, and neuro-affirming.

This project is the result of co-production with Autistic and ADHD children and young people and professionals from ADD-vance and Nessie.

More information about the project can be found here: <https://www.add-vance.org/different-belongs/>

We are holding a webinar on 30th April at 2pm where Add-vance and Nessie will showcase this project to Hertfordshire professionals, please register on the link below if you would like to attend to find out more.

['Different Belongs' - A Neurodiversity toolkit featuring the voices of children and young people in Hertfordshire. Presented by ADD-vance and Nessie | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)



Just Talk 'Is the Reel Real?' Campaign Social Media Toolkit

The campaign is called 'Is this Reel Real?' and will run from **Monday 20th - Friday 24th April**.

This campaign supports young people across Hertfordshire to think critically about what they see online, including AI generated and edited content and to recognise when social media maybe affecting their mood, sleep or wellbeing. The campaign takes a balanced and future-focused stance that acknowledges social media and AI as part of everyday life while encouraging young people, families and professionals to have open, informed conversations.

Each day of the campaign focusses on a different theme:

- Monday 20th April- Is this Reel Real? (AI and edited content)
- Tuesday 21st April- Mood changes
- Wednesday 22nd April- Parent online safety tips and Five ways to Wellbeing
- Thursday 23rd April- AI Tips
- Friday 24th April- Screen time

Please see attached:

- The 'Is this Reel Real?' campaign toolkit- including key messages for young people, parents and carers and professionals, signposting to local support and guidance on how to use the campaign in your setting.

How you can get involved:

We would love as many partners as possible to share the campaign content across your own social media channels during the week of 20-24th April. The toolkit contains everything you need, including suggested posts for each day and platform.

When posting please:

Tag us: @justtalkherts

Use the hashtag #JustTalkHerts

If you plan to create your own content inspired by the campaign themes and would like us to share it across Just Talk channels, please send it to Jessica Hadari at: Jessica.hadari@hertfordshire.gov.uk ahead of campaign week.



Introducing a New Young Carers Offer for Hertfordshire

Thursday 23rd April, 11:30am-12:30pm – MS Teams

Speakers – Sue Chapman, Service Manager and Gemma Roake, Young Carers Team Manager.

This one-hour webinar will introduce you to the new Young Carers offer in Hertfordshire, help you identify young carers in your service and advise what you can do to support them using the following tools:

- The day in the Life of...
- Young Carers Levels of Need Guidance
- HCC's Young Carers webpage

Who is this training for?

Anyone who works with children and anyone who works with adults who have an illness, disability, a mental health problem or an alcohol or substance misuse problem, and have children, because the children may be young carers. Please visit HSCP [website](#) to book your place.

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](#)

DSPL9 Delivering Special Provision Locally

May
COFFEE MORNING!

For all parents/carers of children with SEND
Tuesday 12th May 2026 10-11.30am

ASDA WATFORD COMMUNITY ROOMS
ST ALBANS RD, WATFORD WD24 7RT

Please join the DSPL9 Triage team to find out about the support available locally and to meet other parents and carers of children with SEND. We are delighted that Charlotte from HPCI will be also be attendance to share information about how they support parents of children with SEND.

If you would like to attend or to find out more please email us at enquiries@dsplarea9.org.uk

Please circulate with your school community (flyer attached)