



Delivering Special  
Provision Locally



## DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 14

29.04.26

### DSPL 9 KS3 Project: Engagement Event



It was lovely to see so many of our secondary schools colleagues at the DSPL 9 KS3 project engagement event on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Thank you to Garston Manor for hosting and providing a fantastic spread of refreshments and to the schools below for providing some thought provoking taster sessions.



The deadline for the expression of interest documents from those schools who are interested is **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**.

Should you have any question please do not hesitate to contact [gemmahall@dsplarea9.org.uk](mailto:gemmahall@dsplarea9.org.uk)

## DSPL 9 SEND Information Fair

Thank you to all the professionals and parents who joined us at our first SEND Information Fair. It was a fantastic day, with so many services attending and sharing information regarding the support they provide.



Thank you! You've put my mind at ease  
and made me feel less alone!!

A great use of time out of school.  
Thank you!

Everyone was so lovely, welcoming and all knew  
their stuff. Great Experience.

I really enjoyed the fair and  
found it really useful.



### 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 Acorn Centre

### Relaunch of Tier 2 support

The Acorn Centre Team are pleased to announce that our **Tier 2 Support** is now accessible via our website.

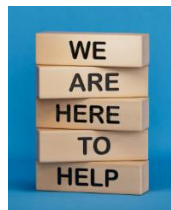
Please follow the link below to our website which outlines the criteria to access this support and what we can offer schools.

#### Tier 2 Support - The Acorn Centre



#### The support varies between:

Specialist Advice  
Individual and Cohort observations  
TA Support Surgeries  
Solution circles,  
SEMH online solution circles etc.



#### DSPL 9

### **Benchmarking and Planning Tool Survey Completion Opportunity Drop in Session**

The survey provided by HFL will go live on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May and close on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:gemmahall@dsplarea9.org.uk)



### DSPL9/HFL Summer Term SEND Briefing

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

[DSPL Briefings Booking Form](#)

**PLEASE NOTE: Lunch will be provided at this SEND briefing and therefore you are invited to arrive at 1pm to enjoy a light lunch prior to the start time of 1.30pm.**



### DSPL 9 TA Online Drop In

Please be reminded that the summer term TA online Drop in will be taking place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May from 1-2pm. This is a great opportunity for your TAs to join Gemma Hall, Mandy Brandon and an Educational Psychologist to ask any questions in relation to the CYP they are working with.

To access the session please use the link below:

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

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 328 965 404 812 1

Passcode: FY623h7m



### DSPL 9 Transition Support

During the spring term 2024, as part of the HCC Aiming for Excellence Project, DSPL 9 hosted the first of two good practice sharing events for the academic year 23/24. The focus of this first session was around the transition process and support for SEND CYP to ensure they move from one school/year group to another smoothly and successfully.

Following the event DSPL9 SEND Review Group considered the extensive lists of ideas collected. It was decided to use this shared good practice and the resources, to create a Top Tips for Transition Tool.

The tool has been designed to show ways which schools could support the transition process from KS1 to KS2, KS2 to KS3 as well as how parents and carers could be supported.

It is important to note that the Top Tips for Transition Tool is not a list of must do's and is intended to be referred to, should you wish to do so, alongside your school's own transition

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

# Different Belongs

## A Neurodiversity Toolkit for Teachers



This is a brand new resources available free to download for primary school teachers on the Add-Vance website. The main resource is an assembly on Understanding Autism and ADHD that teachers can download and use to help all children understand.

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



### Early Years Funding Guidance

This guidance provides a clear and comprehensive overview of the Early Years SEND funding streams available to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who are accessing their Early Education Entitlements across Early Years provision in Hertfordshire. The purpose of this guidance is to help providers and professionals understand the aim of each funding stream, who it supports, and how it is accessed, ensuring that children receive timely and appropriate help in line with the Graduated Response.

To access the guidance and a pre-recorded video please follow the link below:

[https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/information-for-childcare-providers/providers/special-education-needs-and-disabilities.aspx#funding\\_guidance](https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/information-for-childcare-providers/providers/special-education-needs-and-disabilities.aspx#funding_guidance)



## Inference Detectives

*Are you supporting pupils who struggle to make inferences from the texts they read?*

*A two hour Face to Face practical session for Primary SENCOs, Class teachers and TAs*

*Training delivered by the Cognition and Learning Team*

Dear SENCo,

Do you have pupils in your school who have mastered the ability to read but are struggling to fully comprehend the text?.....Do they find inference challenging?.....Do they know **how** to use clues in texts to aid with their understanding?

If so, we warmly invite you and your staff to join our two hour '*Inference Detectives*' training session. This is a structured, multi-sensory comprehension intervention designed to equip pupils with the inference skills needed to succeed.

Did you know that in the 2025 SATs Reading paper, nearly half of all questions (48%) tested pupils' inference skills? This highlights that much of our reading teaching should focus on developing vocabulary and inference skills, with pupils learning how to use and apply these comprehension strategies to build a mental model of the text.

Our training as always, is practical, evidence-based, and immediately applicable in your setting!

#### **Why attend?**

- Catch up with the specialist advisory teachers from the team!!
- Get practical strategies and an invaluable resource you can use in your schools straight away.
- Meet up with colleagues across the county and share best practice.

Spaces will be limited, and we want to ensure that you have time to plan and book as soon as possible. Please take a moment to read the attached flyer and secure your place early.



**Join a Webinar:**

# Whole Family Working

Hosted during:

**EQUAL  
PARENTING  
WEEK**

+ launch of the  
new HSCP  
Father Inclusive  
Practice  
guidance

Join a webinar to hear how practitioners should take a child-centred, whole-family approach, seeing and hearing the child, understanding each family member's needs, and recognising how these needs affect one another.

## Session Objectives

1. Make you aware of the Whole Family Working guidance & 7 mins briefing
2. Make you aware of the Father Inclusive Practice guidance and 7 mins briefing
3. Learn from practical examples – case studies and success stories

For further information please see the attached flyer.



## Mental Health/Pastoral Lead network meeting dates 2026-27

All the mental health/pastoral lead network meeting dates for early years, primary and secondary schools have now been set for the next academic year.

Please see the attached document for all the information including venues where appropriate.

Can I also ask that you pass this information onto the relevant person if this is not you?

These meetings are a great opportunity for all new and experienced mental health and pastoral leads to hear from a range of services across Hertfordshire that provide a range of support for our CYPs. It also enables you to keep up to date with what is available and how to access it.

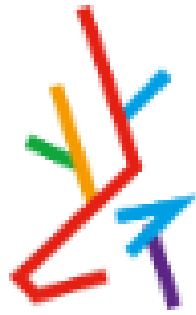


## CYPMHS April Newsletter

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

- It's time for action! April is Stress Awareness Month
- Binge eating can be a sign of stress
- Sign up to Lumi Nova's newsletter for professionals
- HPFT's NHS Talking Therapies

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



# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE

North Hertfordshire College is pleased to announce our May open event at **Springboard Watford** which will be held on **Thursday 7th May 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](mailto: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. The event is on drop in basis.

**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.**

We look forward to meeting you at our open event.



## ALL HERTFORDSHIRE GAMES FOR ALL



We are hosting our 1<sup>st</sup> ever Hertfordshire GAA Games For All initiative on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May from 12pm - 1pm alongside our All-Herts Competition which is a 4-day event for all our schools and clubs in Hertfordshire, making it the most inclusive Gaelic Games Competition in Britain GAA. In 2025 we had over 2000 boys and girls attend in what was a fantastic 4 days for all involved

**Our Hertfordshire GAA Games For All initiative – a community programme that gives children with physical and neurological disabilities the chance to enjoy Gaelic games activities in a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment.**

I am already attending Woodlands Secondary school where I am delivering fun Gaelic Game activities as part of our schools Games for All initiative. Woodlands will be attending our secondary school competition on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to take part in our 1<sup>st</sup> schools Games For All.

We would like to offer our Games For All to all our Parents/carers and especially the children across Hertfordshire, to come and join us in what will be a fantastic day for all involved where every child will receive our 1<sup>st</sup> ever Games For All Jersey and our AHC medal.

We will also be running our **HERO program** which is part of our partners' Ulster GAA inclusion program. On the day where any child from our Games For All would like to help out can be the following:

**H= Helper**

**E= Energizer (supporter)**

**R- Referee Assistant/umpire**

**O- Organizer (assistant pitch co Ordinator)**

**Each Hero will receive our Hero Certificate on the day.**

I have attached our Games For All poster above and our Parent/carer letter for SEND to look at and share if possible. On the poster is our QR code for enrolment and other information to help plan there day.

Please feel free to contact me by phone at any time if you would like to chat about our Games For All initiative.

Look forward to hearing back from you.

Many thanks

**Keith Jackman**

Community Development Administrator – Hertfordshire

Provincial Council of Britain GAA

**Tel: 07596864644**

**Email: [cda.hertfordshire@gaa.ie](mailto:cda.hertfordshire@gaa.ie)**

**PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION AND ATTACHED FLYERS WITH YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.**

## HSCP - Child Protection Conference Training - NEW DATE 7TH MAY 10.00-11.45

### Target Audience:

The training is aimed at a range of multi-agency professionals who work with children and who are likely to need to attend a Child Protection conference. You may have already attended a conference or you may be new to the process. It is open to all professionals who either wish to update their knowledge or to learn about the process. Professionals may include (but not exclusive to this list):

Health Services (GPs, health visitors, midwives, school nurses), School staff, Early Help staff, Probation, Children's Services staff (domestic abuse practitioners, mental health practitioners), Community Adolescent Mental Health Service, Community Mental Health Team, Adult services, Children's Centre staff.

### Attendance Criteria:

Delegates must have completed mandatory Basic/Stage 1 Safeguarding/Child Protection training within their own agency. The course is free to attend for people working for an agency contributing to the operation of the HSCP, or at cost if not.

### Aim of the Course:

To learn about the structure and processes associated with a Child Protection conference and the methods and responsibilities of those involved.

### Learning Outcomes:

- Information on the conference style and structure (current style of Strengthening Families as well as the Strengthening Families Network style)
- Children's views
- What is expected of you – Your role and responsibilities
- The role of the Child Protection Conference Chair
- Reports to conferences – How to write them and where to send them what should be included.
- Timescales.
- Decision making process.
- Outcomes of a plan, process of monitoring progresses
- Differences between Child in Need and Child Protection
- Child protection process beyond the conference

Please book via our website - [website](#)