



Delivering Special  
Provision Locally



## DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 15

13.05.26



### Benchmarking and planning tool survey 2026

It is that time of year again when all Hertfordshire SENCOs are asked to complete the Benchmarking and Planning Tool survey to celebrate successful SEND provision in your school and consider areas for development for the year ahead.

What is the Benchmarking and Planning Tool:

A self-evaluation framework introduced by HFL in 2017:

- reflecting the provision that the local area expects to be made available for children and young people with SEND in all mainstream schools and settings
- providing a framework for discussion for schools to identify strengths and areas for development in their SEN provision

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.

***As a token of appreciation for your time and input, all those who complete the survey will be entered into a raffle to win £100, which can be used to purchase resources for your SEND pupils. It's a fantastic chance to invest in materials that will directly benefit your learners.***

To complete the survey please follow the link below:

[https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/BMPT\\_Survey\\_2026/](https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/BMPT_Survey_2026/)

N.B: SENCOs are reminded that they can print a copy of their own survey results and save it by clicking the PRINT button at the end of the survey **before** they close it down.

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 2025**

**Time: 1-3.30pm**

**Venue: The Green Room@Bournehall Primary School**

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

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/2138321>

If you have any questions around the Benchmarking and Planning Tool please contact Gemma Hall

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



**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



**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 FIF Clusters: Summer 2**

Please note the deadline for FIF applications for the summer term 2 clusters is **08.06.26**. All applications **MUST** be sent to your FIF email address. If you are unsure of this please [click here](#).

All FIF cluster meetings will take place face to face and if you making an application you **MUST** attend:

Cluster	Date	Time	Venue
1	23.06.26	1-2.30pm	Little Green
2	23.06.26	9.30-11am	Cherry Tree
3	18.06.26	9.30-11am	Merry Hill
4	16.06.26	1-2.30pm	Divine Saviour
5	16.06.26	9.30-11am	Bushey Meads

For all information regarding FIF including the application form, please go to the [DSPL 9 website](#).



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](http://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.

## Medical support for schools

Last updated on 21 April 2026



by [Hertfordshire County Council](#)

This provides support for schools regarding the health offer for support and training where a child or young person has a medical need.

<https://thegrid.org.uk/send-and-additional-needs/health-referrals-asd-adhd-therapies/medical-support-for-schools>

**Chessbrook**  
Education Support Centre  
Courage | Pride | Resilience

# ALTERNATIVES FOR SUCCESS

THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026 | 4:00PM

*"An excellent event - really informative, well organised, and a great opportunity to make valuable connections."*

**HOW TO FIND US**  
Address: Chessbrook ESC, Tolpits Lane, WD18 6LJ  
Parking is at Westfield Academy Sports Centre Car Park, off Tolpits Lane (100 yards from Chessbrook)

**SCAN ME TO SIGN UP**

Comprehensive Support & Guidance for Primary and Secondary Phases



Many thanks to those of you who were able to join us for our schools sharing session last month!

The session was recorded and can be played back at any time: [Making the Most of Peer Mentors and Wellbeing Ambassadors webinar for schools \(56 minutes\)](#)

Please feel free to share the video with colleagues, Governors, support staff - anyone who you feel would benefit from seeing it.

You'll also find attached the slides that each of the presenters shared.

### Next up...

On **Wednesday 20 May** at **1.30pm** we'll be talking about how to Identify Need and Monitor Impact. This session will include a look at some of the resources that settings use such as the [Boxall Profile](#) and [Motional - Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health Online](#).

Please email [Shelley.Woods@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Shelley.Woods@hertfordshire.gov.uk) requesting the calendar link if you'd like to join the session.

# Take a **closer** look!

## Cognition and Learning Team: Summer 2 Training Offer

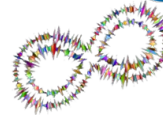
The Cognition and Learning Team have a wide range of training opportunities taking place in the second half of the summer term. These include:

- Diagnostic Literacy Assessments
- Forward with phonics
- Strategies for pupils with writing difficulties
- Multisensory spelling strategies
- Persistent literacy difficulties
- Assessing and teaching reading

Please take a look at the attached flyers for further details including dates, venues and how to book.



**Hertfordshire Autism Training**



Please find attached all the flyer from the Hertfordshire Autism Training team. The summer offer includes the following topics/themes:

SLCN in the Primary Classroom - 21st May

SLCN in the Secondary Classroom - 2nd July

HAT Lite Bite: Structured Teaching - 19th May

HAT Lite Bite: Sensory Circuits - 19th May

HAT Lite Bite: Structured Teaching - 19th May

HAT Lite Bite: Sensory Circuits - 19th May

HAT Workshop: Autism and 'Girls' - 20th May

HAT Workshop: Autism and EBNA - 2nd June

HAT Workshop: Autism & Understanding Behaviour - 9th June

HAT Workshop: Autism and Sensory - 11th June

HAT Workshop: Brick Skills - 16th June

HAT Workshop: Social Stories - 17th June

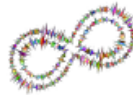
HAT Workshop: Autism and Puberty - 18th June

HAT Lite Bite: Intensive Interaction - 25th June

HAT Lite Bite: Anticipation Games & People Games - 25th June



# Hertfordshire Autism Training



## Level 3 Course

This training workshop will take place online.  
Register by using the link or QR code provided in this flyer.

### Autism, Puberty & Sexual Vulnerability Thursday 18th June 2026 09.30-11.30

- To know how to support young people to understand how their bodies are changing.
- To know how to support young people to understand sexual relationships.
- To know how to support young people to understand the difference between public and private.
- To know how to support young people to keep themselves safe.



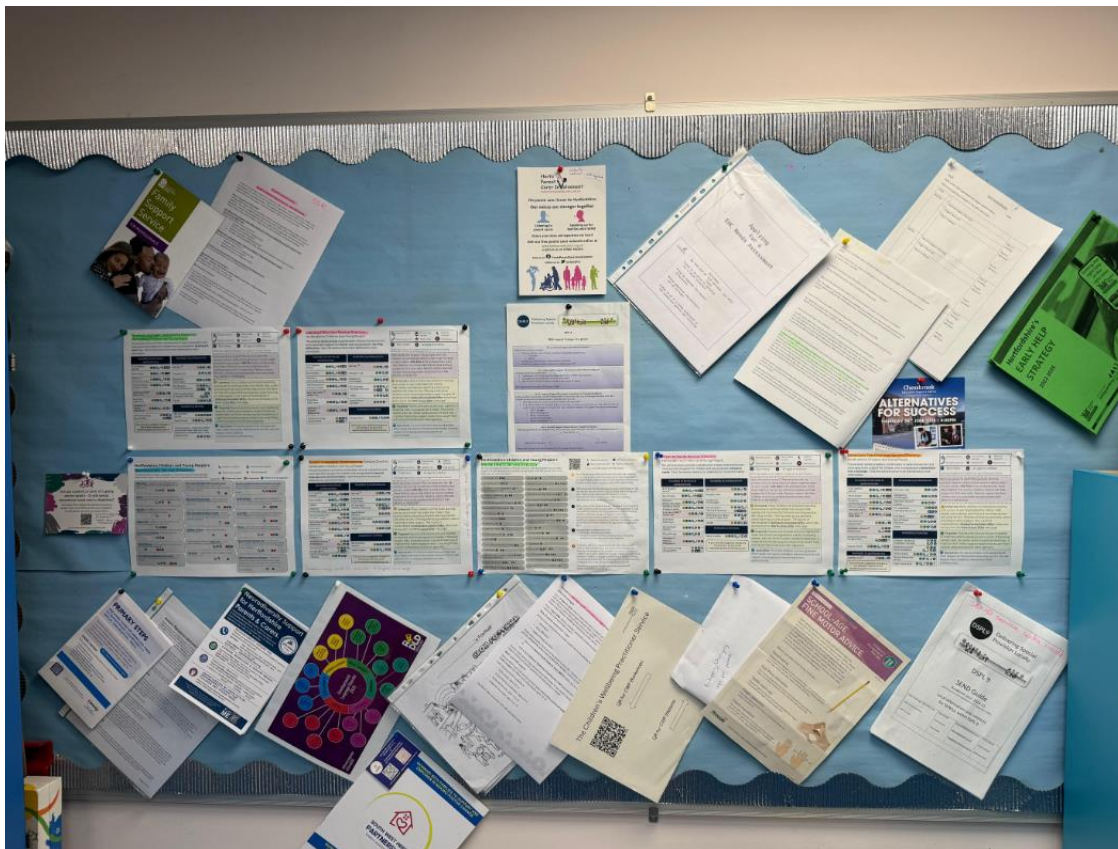
To book please visit <https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-puberty-and-sexual-vulnerability-workshop-18th-june-2026>

#### Please Note

- ✓ The Autism Puberty & Sexual Vulnerability workshop is suitable for practitioners working with children aged 9 and upwards.

[AutismTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:AutismTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Do you have a SEND advice/hotline working wall in your office.....



The SENCO at Cassiobury Infants has kindly shared her working wall as an example of how she uses and shares information regarding local services and support. With so much available across DSPL 9 and Hertfordshire, this is a great way to highlight everything!

