



Delivering Special
Provision Locally



DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 16

03.06.26



Benchmarking and planning tool survey 2026

Thank you to the 20 schools who have already completed their survey! They are now in the running to win £100 for their school!

Abbots Langley	Divine Saviour	Sacred Heart Catholic Primary
Ascot Road	Eastbury Farm	St John's Catholic Primary
Chorleywood	Merry Hill Infant and Nursery	St Meryl
Colnbrook	Nascot Wood Infants	Orchard primary
Cassiobury Infants	Highwood	Malvern Way
Christchurch	Little Reddings	St Anthony's
St Pauls	Willow Tree	

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.

DON'T FORGET:

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/

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.



If you haven't done so already, please sign up to the DSPL 9 Lending Library and see what resources are available:

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



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



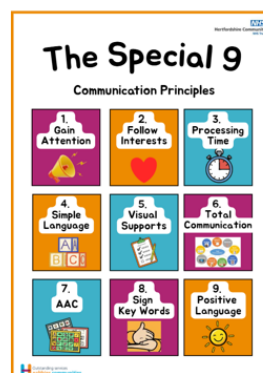
DSPL 9 FIF Clusters: Summer 2

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](#).



Follow these 9 principles to create
a communication friendly environment
in your setting

Special 9 Postcard and Training

We are excited to share our “Special 9” resources- a postcard and corresponding training webinar. The “Special 9” resources talk through 9 principles for ensuring a communication friendly environment. The training has been written for staff working with children/young people with learning difficulties and SLCN. Whilst this was designed with Special Schools in mind, we are sure this will prove useful for the majority of mainstream settings too.

The link to the training can be found via the QR code on the postcard, as well as via this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loHugoUaF38>



DSPL 9 EBSA Transition Solution Circles

During the latter part of the summer term, DSPL 9 will be offering weekly transition focused solution circles to provide an opportunity for schools 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 th June
Monday 22 nd June
Monday 29 th June
Monday 6 th July

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

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



This is a reminder that the third and final whole primary school dyslexia training will be taking place on Wednesday 10th June from 3.45-5pm. The topic for this session will be around memory and learning.

Those schools signed up to attend will receive the zoom link to the training closer to the time.



Following the [launch of the Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance \(EBSNA\) Framework for schools](#) last June (2025), the attached poster has also been developed to provide advice, guidance and signposting for parents/carers whose children are struggling to attend school regularly.

The EBSNA Framework aims to provide professionals with a clear and accessible tool, that enables them to work more collaboratively with children, young people and their families. It uses a structured and transparent step-by-step approach to identifying the underlying issues that are preventing children and young people from attending; alongside practical guidance on the support and strategies needed for creating an action plan to help them return to school.

[EBSNA Poster can be accessed here](#) Please do attach you your website/share with parents/carers.



TA Solution Circle Summer Term Session

The summer term face to face TA solution circle is due to take place on Thursday 18th June from 1-2.30pm in The Green Room at Bournehall.

Unfortunately we didn't have any TAs join us for the spring term session and currently have only one TA signed up to attend this terms session. If you feel this would be of benefit to a TA in our school please use the booking link below:

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/1753624>



Have your say on Hertfordshire's Digital Mental Health Support for Children Recommission

In Hertfordshire children and young people who are registered with a Hertfordshire GP can currently access a range of services to support them with their emotional and mental wellbeing. This includes free **online, virtual and digital support** delivered through **WithYouth** young people's service for 5-18-year-olds (including the **Lumi Nova** game) and the **Sandbox** for 10–25-year-olds.

To ensure we are commissioning services that are based on the needs of children and young people, Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS are seeking the views of those professionals who support children and young people who access these services' support.

By completing this short survey as a professional working in Hertfordshire, you will help us understand your views and experiences of supporting and/or signposting a child or young person to use these services. We would also like you to consider what future online, virtual or digital mental health and emotional wellbeing support could look like, and what we should seek to include.

This survey forms part of a larger evaluation which include several focus groups. A separate invitation will be sent to you in relation to this.

Complete the Professionals survey here: <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/6N030B/>



VSEND Engagement Survey

Hertfordshire are seeking feedback from SENCOs on their use of VSEND and, for those not currently using it, the reasons why.

Please take a few minutes to complete the short survey below:

[VSEND engagement survey - SENCO feedback – Fill in form](#)

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

1 day Champion course designed specifically for school professionals working with 8 to 18 year olds.

FREE



Please find attached information regarding the 1 day champion, Youth Mental Health First Aid training. This training is free and available over the next 3 terms.



Autism and ADHD referrals

Last updated on 20 May 2026



by [Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Please can everyone make sure they are using the correct links and forms for Autism and/or ADHD assessments, any old forms (pre December 2024) will not be accepted after June. The correct forms and links can be found on the local offer:

[Getting a referral for a child or young person's autism and/ or ADHD assessment](#)

They are also on the Grid:

<https://thegrid.org.uk/send-and-additional-needs/health-referrals-asd-adhd-therapies/autism-and-adhd-referrals>



Cognition and Learning Team: Summer 2 Training Offer

Dear SENCo

We wanted to share our training schedule for the second half of this term with you.

If you or your colleagues missed any of our training earlier in the year, this is the perfect opportunity to catch up. Please find attached flyers detailing our most popular courses that schools have requested to be repeated; offering something for everyone and designed to support you in your setting.

Also, don't forget that you can request any of our courses to be delivered in your own setting!

Looking forward to hearing from you.

The Cognition and Learning Team

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



CYPMHS May Newsletter

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

- Emotional wellbeing support in Herts to help with school transitions
- Have your say on Hertfordshire's online, virtual and digital mental health support for children and young people
- Anna Freud newsletter (special edition with a neurodiversity focus)

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



Delivering Special
Provision Locally



DSPL 9

Summer Term: EBSA (emotionally based school avoidance) Transition Support



DSPL 9 are pleased to invite parents to attend EBSA transition support
coffee mornings during the summer term.

Please share the attached flyer with your school community.

Beezee
by maximus

Dear Colleagues

Beezee by Maximus is pleased to offer FREE online professional training group sessions covering *Healthy Weight Conversations / Fussy Eating Behaviours*.

These sessions are scheduled to take place at the following times:

Monday 15th June and Monday 22nd June 2026 at 12pm until 1pm.

If you'd like to book onto an upcoming session please visit our Events page <https://hrt.maximusuk.co.uk/events/> and feel free to contact us for more information.

Beezee
by maximus

How do we talk about weight?



Discover our top tips by attending our free 'Confident
Conversations around Weight and Wellbeing' training session.

Date: 15 June '26 **Time:** 12 - 1pm

Beezee
by maximus

Do you want to help families figure out fussy eating?



Join our FREE masterclass

Date: Monday 22 June '26 **Time:** 12 - 1pm

The Learning Hub in June 2026 will focus on **Private Law Proceedings** and aims to help practitioners improve their confidence and knowledge.

All sessions will last for 2.5 hrs, with a comfort break. All sessions will be held online via MS Teams.

- 1 June 2026 2pm to 4:30pm
- 25 June 2026 10am to 12:30pm
- 29 June 2pm to 4:30pm

Please visit our [website](#) to make a booking

Supporting Individuals and Families with lived experience of Domestic Abuse

Friday 12 June 2026 (09:30 - 13:30)

Description: This 4-hour interactive session is focused on exploring whole family approaches to responding to individuals with lived experience of domestic violence. It will consider how to utilise multi-agency working and navigating your role as a key link in the system chain to safeguard impacted individuals.

Aims: Following access to a pre-read briefing, we will re-cap different categories and types of abuse. We will navigate what it means to support in a 'whole family' approach and the importance of responding to all involved; especially recognising harm to children and impacts of trauma and how this may impact the way individuals engage with professionals. We will also consider supporting non-abusive family members with the impacts they experience. We will identify various agencies who can become involved at any stage of prevention or response. We will consider how to appropriately record concerns and respond to survivors in a way that promote trustworthy and boundary professional relationships. We will finish the session with reflections on self-care and support mechanisms for you, as well.

Who Should Attend: This session is designed for professionals in a variety of sectors, who work directly or indirectly with families affected by domestic abuse. This may include, but is not limited to, social care, health, education, police, probation, and drug and alcohol abuse services.

Please visit our [website](#)

Introducing a New Young Carers Offer for Hertfordshire

Date- Wednesday 10th June, 1-2pm

Hosted during Carers Week- Introducing a New Young Carers Offer for Hertfordshire

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 our [website](#)



SEND Provision Plan 2026-29

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.