



DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 17

17.06.26



Benchmarking and planning tool survey 2026

Thank you to the 44 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
St John's Infants	Nascot Wood Infants	Orchard primary
Cassiobury Infants	Highwood	Malvern Way
Christchurch	Little Reddings	St Anthony's
St Pauls	Willow Tree	Colnbrook
Bushey Heath	Yorke Mead	Shepherd Primary
Watford Boys	Watford Girls	Futures Academy Watford
Coates Way	Cherry Tree	Bromet
Laurance Haines	Central Primary	Chater Infants
Chater Juniors	Parkgate Infants	Holy Rood
Alban Wood	Beechfield	Watford St Johns's
Kingsway Nursery	Parmiters	Oxhey Wood
Warren Dell	Greenfields	

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.



What is the purpose? This CPD opportunity will enhance practitioner's understanding of Executive Functioning (EF) skills, to explore how to address difficulties that arise in the classroom and to provide guidance on how to support the development of children and young people's EF skills.

How will this be done? A full day in-person training with 3-month follow-up session covering:

- Definitions of EF
- Neurotypical Development of EF skills – From Early Years to post 16
- Culturally Responsive Practice
- How EF skills may be expressed differently (Neurodiverse population and across the curriculum)
- What EF needs look like in the classroom
- Assessing EF
- Supporting Children and Young People with EF difficulties
- Embedding good practice in schools

All participants will be provided with an EF Resource pack. The information provided will inform schools' Assess, Plan, Do, Review (APDR) cycles.

Who should attend?

Staff in school who have the responsibility for co-ordinating SEND support within the school (SENCo). This training is available to both primary and secondary schools.

How do schools book a place?

Round 1 bookings (October 2026 and February 2027): <https://buytickets.at/dspl9/2248026>

Round 2 bookings (February 2027 and June 2027): <https://buytickets.at/dspl9/2248159>

Please be reminded that by signing up using the Ticket Tailor link above you are agreeing to attend both the face to face and follow up session.

- **Failure to attend once booked onto all sessions (without providing a valid reason within 24 hours prior to the session) will result in your school being charged £20.**

What is required after the initial full-day training?

Attendance at 3-month follow-up meeting to share impact of work in school, as measured on APDR cycles. Group supervision will be available to discuss successes and barriers to progress, enhance problem solving skills and facilitate professional growth and development.

EF Training Dates		
Autumn/Spring term '26-'27 (Round 1)		
Date Thursday 15 th October 2026	Venue The Green Room, Bournehall Primary School	Full day Training (9:30- 15:00)
Date Thursday 4 th February 2027	Remote Via Microsoft Teams	10.00-10.30am 30 minute MSTeams meeting
Spring /Summer term '27 (Round 2)		
Date Tuesday 23 rd February 2027	Venue The Green Room, Bournehall Primary School	Full day Training (9:30- 15:00)
Date Thursday 10 th June 2027	Remote Via Microsoft Teams	10-10.30am 30 minute MSTeams meeting



DSPL 9 SENCo Clusters and FIF Clusters

All dates for the DSPL 9 SENCo Clusters and FIF Clusters have been set for the next academic year. Thank you to the schools who have offered to host these event!

Please click on the link below to access the document with all the dates, times and venues.

[DSPL 9 Clusters 2026-27](#)

Autumn 1/Spring 1/Summer 1:

Please note the FIF cluster is part of the first half term SENCo cluster meetings, 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)

For all information regarding Focused Intervention Funding (FIF) please click [here](#).

Early Years Funding Q&A

Early
Years
Service
Hertfordshire County Council

FAQ: Early Years Funding

Following the first round of the new funding scheme in the last half term, the Early Years team have created a FAQ document to support SENCos in further understanding the system and process.

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

Early
Years
Service
Hertfordshire County Council

EY V-SEND TRAINING

VSEND is about supporting inclusion through solution-focused, person-centred tools, strengthening provision, building an understanding of need, and enabling engagement with families.

This virtual training is designed for all EY schools and settings to help you understand how VSEND can support your APDR process. It is ideal for SENCOs and managers who want to gain a deeper understanding of VSEND

Thursday 9th July 9:30am – 11:00am: [Early Years VSEND Virtual Training | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Reserve Your Spot using the appropriate links above.



Children & Young Peoples Speech & Language Therapy Service



**Training available to book for Autumn 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!



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

WellComm



Supporting
Bilingual CYP



Developmental
Language
Disorder (DLD)



Following
instructions with
up to 4 keywords



An Introduction
to Selective
Mutism



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://speechandlanguage.therapy.speech.language.Children'sspeechandlanguage.therapy.speechtherapy.SALT.SLT.HertfordshireCommunityNHSTrust.hct.nhs.uk)
to find out more information and to book on.

Children & Young Peoples Speech & Language Therapy Service



**Face to face
training available to book Autumn Term 2026**



Understanding
blanks levels
of questioning

Using the
WellComm
toolkit

Colourful
semantics

Following
instructions
with up to 4
key words

Don't forget
our instant
access
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://speechandlanguage.therapy.speech.language.Children'sspeechandlanguage.therapy.speechtherapy.SALT.SLT.HertfordshireCommunityNHSTrust.hct.nhs.uk)
to find out more information and to book on.



Children & Young Peoples Speech & Language Therapy Service



Virtual Training available to book Autumn Term 2026

Social
Communication
in the Early
Years

Social
Communication
for school aged
children

Developmental
Language
Disorder (DLD) 2-
part training

Talking with
Children

Supporting
Bilingual children
in school

An Introduction
to Selective
Mutism



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://speechandlanguagetherapy.hertfordshire.nhs.uk/speech-language-childrens-speech-and-language-therapy-speech-therapy-SALT-SLT/)
to find out more information and to book on.

Early Years Down Syndrome Training for Professionals

Early
Years
Service

Hertfordshire County Council

About:

This course is designed for Early Years and Key Stage One practitioners who are new to supporting a child with Down syndrome. It aims to:

- Provide a clear overview of Down syndrome
- Explore the implications for learning and development
- Examine effective, evidence-informed teaching approaches
- Identify appropriate strategies and resources to support inclusion and participation in the classroom

When: Thursday 9th July 2026 9.30am-3pm

Where: Hertfordshire County Council -
Apsley, Brindley Way, Hemel Hempstead HP3
9BF

When: Thursday 17th September 2026

9.30am-3pm
Where: Hertfordshire County Council -
Stevenage Farnham House, Six Hills Way,
Stevenage, SG1 2F

- To book a place or ask any questions, contact: EarlyYearsTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Valuing SEND in Hertfordshire

IMPOWER

Full training (online) for SENCOs and Senior Leaders

Please note full VSEND training will be taking place virtually on Monday 22nd June from 1-2.30pm.

The attached flyer contains all the details regarding this training including the teams link.



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: [Identifying needs and monitoring impacts in schools: webinar May 2026](#)

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.

Please note that our Tackling Bullying webinar planned for 17 June has been postponed and will be rearranged for the new academic year.



Link to survey: [Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Practice Review Survey](#)

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Practice Review: Culture, Race Equity and Safeguarding Practice Review Survey

Introduction

You are invited to participate in a Partnership survey as part of a scrutiny review of Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP). It should take 7 minutes to complete and you will be guided to specific sections and questions relevant to your role within HSCP.

Who is conducting the survey?

Laurelle Brown Training and Consultancy (LBTC) are undertaking an independent scrutiny review of HSCP. This includes statutory agencies, along with voluntary and community sector, strategic groups and children and families. Details of HSCP's multi-agency arrangements can be found here: [HSCP Safeguarding Arrangements 2026](#)

What are the review aims?

HSCP has commissioned this independent review to understand how well local agencies are addressing race, racism and equity diversity and inclusion (EDI) within safeguarding practice. The review responds to findings from national and local safeguarding reviews, including the national report It's Silent: Race, Racism and Safeguarding. The review will explore how confident and supported practitioners and leaders feel to recognise and challenge racism and bias, how previous EDI and anti-racism work has influenced practice, what barriers continue to affect equitable outcomes, and what improvements are needed across the partnership. We are seeking your views as part of this review.

Your feedback is extremely valuable and will help us identify:

- strengths within the safeguarding system
- barriers to equitable practice
- opportunities for improvement across agencies and partnerships

This survey is intended to support the review aims and enable collective learning, accountability, and safer outcomes for children and families.



Hertfordshire Speech, Language and Communication Needs Training

"SLCN and learning – essential training for teachers by teachers"



Free Training For Primary and Secondary School Staff



This training is 2 hours long and will be delivered online via MS Teams.
Please book spaces using the email below.

Please note spaces are still for available **for secondary colleagues** to attend the training taking place virtually on Thursday 2nd July from 9.30-11.30am.

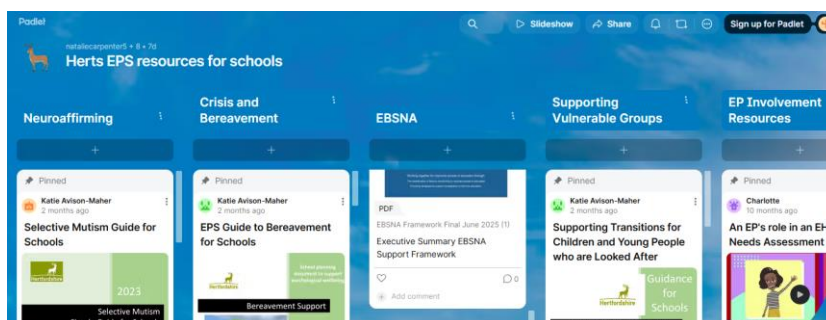
Please see the attached flyer for booking details.

Padlet

Herts EPS Resources for Schools

The EPS have created a padlet with resources and guidance booklets they have developed for schools all in one place which is now on our EPS page on the Herts grid for learning.

The direct link to the padlet with the resources for schools is here: [Herts EPS resources for schools](#)



Compassionate guidance, clear information. A community for young dementia carers and rare dementia carers, built through lived experience.

Seeing Dementia Differently website: <https://www.seeingdementiadifferently.com/>

Youtube video for young carers to help explain rare dementia to a teacher: https://youtu.be/_2WWBkuifNo?si=QDjXlpQUASiEDLYO

A paper that explores interventions for young dementia carers: <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/20/1/127>

Find out more about the up and coming event for young carers who are having to deal with a young onset or rare form of dementia diagnosis: <https://www.seeingdementiadifferently.com/carerskaraoke>



CYPMHS June Newsletter

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

- Emotional wellbeing support in Herts to help with school transitions
- Time to reflect as term nears the end
- Anna Freud newsletter

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



Are you a family with children and young people aged 0-25 with Special Educational Need and/or Disabilities looking for local activities?

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

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDdirectory