



Delivering Special
Provision Locally



DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 2

23.09.26

DSPL 9 Young Carers Event

DSPL 9 would like to invite all local primary and secondary schools to attend a Young Carers event to find out more about how to identify and support young carers within your schools.

The morning will be an amazing opportunity to hear from local schools and services and gain a better understanding of how and what support looks like.

The event will be attended by:

Hertfordshire Young Carers Team

Laurence Haines School (Primary)

Nicholas Breakspear Catholic
School (Secondary)

Herts School Nursing Service

Akshaya Patra: Empower Hour

Date: Wednesday 11th November 2026

Time: 9.30am-12.30pm

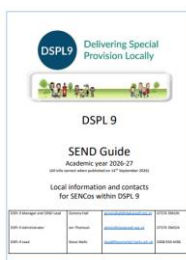
Venue: The Niland Centre, Bushey, WD23 4EE

To book your space please click on the link below:

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/2249946>

Please note: This event is open to any colleagues in school responsible for supporting Young Carers.

DSPL 9 SENCo handbook 2026-27



The DSPL 9 SENCo handbook has been updated for this academic year. In this useful guide you will find a whole range of information to support you in your role and understand what is available to you within DSPL 9 and across Hertfordshire.

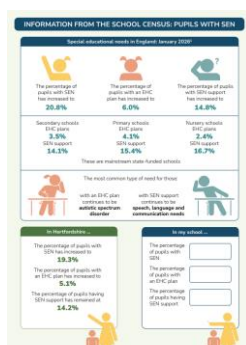
The guide can be accessed by [clicking here](#) or from the [DSPL 9 website](#).



The HFL updated SEND toolkit has been published with the changes mainly reflecting the SEND reforms that are underway.

Please use the link below to download a copy at no charge:
<https://hub.hfleducation.org/courses/send-toolkit-eighth-edition>

Please take advantage of the data/census pages which can be found on pages 88 and 89 of the document:



Annual Review updated documentation

Please be aware the EHCP annual review documentation has been updated on the Herts Grid, we are awaiting further communication from HCC regarding this but wanted to highlight this to you as soon as DSPL 9 became aware.

To access the updated document please use the link below:
[Education, health and care plan \(EHC\) - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning](#)

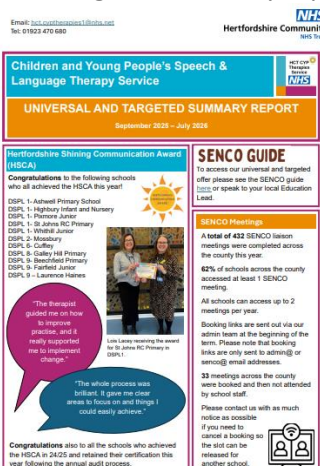


Early Years EWB Training 2026-27

Please find attached a flyer which contains all the training available through the EYs EWB team this academic year. All bookings for the training can be found at [Send Academy | Hertfordshire County Council](#)



Please find attached the SALT new Universal and Targeted summary report for 25/26.



#DLDDay

DLD Awareness Day

DLD Awareness Day is coming up on Friday 16th October 2026. Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is a hidden but common disability that affects 1 in 14 people causing difficulties understanding and using language for no known reason.

Please see RADLD Website for more information: [RADLD - Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder - RADLD](#).

We would love for your setting to take part in DLD Awareness Day- we have also attached a presentation on DLD which can be adapted and shared with school staff, but you can get in touch with us for more ideas.

Don't forget, the SLT service also runs a virtual two part training on "Understanding Developmental Language Disorder" which can be booked via the website. There are many other trainings which also support children with DLD, such as "Learning how to use Colourful Semantics" and "Blanks Levels of Questioning" which can also be booked via the website. <https://www.hct.nhs.uk/children-and-young-people-speech-and-language-therapy>

Applying for an EHC Needs Assessment

This annual training will be delivered by Mandy Brandon (SISO for DSPL 9) and will cover the following aspects:

- What to do prior to applying for a needs assessment
- How to complete the request effectively
- What paperwork should/should not be included?
- What to do if a needs assessment is not needed but parents are insisting

The training is refreshed and updated each year, so we recommend attending this year even if you attended last year.

**Date: Thursday 5th November
Time: 3.45-5pm
Venue: Microsoft Teams**

To book your place please [click here](#)

SENCo Drop-Ins

This academic year Gemma Hall and Mandy Brandon will be moving the weekly drop in sessions to a Thursday morning (before school) or lunchtime and rotate this on a weekly basis.

These sessions are an opportunity for any SENCos, Head Teachers, Pastoral Leads or staff to jump onto a call and ask any question big or small that is SEND related.

MORNING SESSION:

The first session 8-8.45am session will take place on Thursday 10th September and will run until the end of the summer term:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/33742930953952?p=UVsoWANjoUGmNQEut3>

Meeting ID: 337 429 309 539 52

Passcode: 9SM3ML3v

LUNCHTIME SESSION:

The first session 12-1pm will take place on Thursday 17th September and will also run until the end of the summer term:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/381362195089344?p=npG00zLkEDiny3CZcM>

Meeting ID: 381 362 195 089 344

Passcode: Zq6kk6nK

Hertfordshire Autism Training

Don't forget there is a wide range of training opportunities available to you and your staff through the Local Authority. All the training is fully funded and covers a range of topic and themes.

Please check out all the attached flyer and take advantage of this menu of training available.

IMPOWER Valuing SEND

HCC has released the dates for the VSEND training for the autumn term. They will be providing training for SENCOs, HT and SLT and specific training for EYs colleges.

Please follow the link below to find out more details:

[Send Academy | Hertfordshire County Council](#)



Fully funded for Hertfordshire SENCOs with three pathways:

- New to role and at the start of their journey
- New to Hertfordshire and bringing previous experience
- New to a DSPL area with experience and knowledge of Hertfordshire

To find out more use the links below:

[Autumn 2026 cohort](#)

[Spring 2027 cohort](#)



Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops October-December 2026

Please find attached the Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops leaflet, which outlines the range of emotional wellbeing workshops being delivered by the team from October to December 2026.

All workshops are delivered virtually via Microsoft Teams and are free to attend. Families can sign up through Eventbrite. Please note that we do not record our workshops.

Children Missing Education (CME) and Elective Home Education (EHE): Twilight sessions

3 November 4.15 – 5.15 pm

10 November 4.15 – 5.15 pm

17 November 4.15 – 5.15 pm

Come and meet the colleagues who lead the Children Missing Education (CME) and Elective Home Education (EHE) teams –

- Anna Shaw leads the Elective Home Education (EHE) team and will talk through relevant EHE policy updates, removal from roll (RfR) guidance including when a School Attendance Order (SAO) is in force and flexi-schooling.
- Mario Demetriou leads the Children Missing Education (CME) team and will talk through relevant CME policy updates, SAO implications and where required, reintegration support for children returning to school.
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There will also be an opportunity to ask general questions regarding EHE and CME.

Please visit our training platform <https://hscb.event-booking.org.uk/>



CYPMHS September Newsletter

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

- Top tips for settling children and young people into new routines this autumn
- New for ARFID from First Steps ED: digital stepped care pathway and Improving Care report
- Website refresh, animation for young people and podcasts from Hertfordshire's NHS Talking Therapies (for ages 16+)

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



COMMUNITY SPORTS & EDUCATION TRUST
SEN & Pan-Disability
FOOTBALL SESSION
FRIDAYS 5-6PM
@ MERIDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE
 For young people aged 9-17 with any form of physical and/or learning disability or special educational need.
 Whether this be for a first time footballer, or someone with some experience, why not come along and give it a go!
SCAN TO SIGN UP
FOR MORE INFO: THOMAS.HOSIER@WATFORDFC.TRUST.COM
FREE!
STARTING FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER
No Limits
Premier League Foundation

Flyer attached



Lumi Nova in Hertfordshire: Supporting Schools



We are hosting a webinar for Hertfordshire Schools to share best practice and help you implement Lumi Nova in your school.

Come along to our **FREE WEBINAR** and discover what Lumi Nova has to offer:

Lumi Nova in Hertfordshire: Supporting Schools

Tuesday 29th September 2026 @ 1:00pm

[Click here to secure your place!](#)

The webinar will include:

- How to embed Lumi Nova to support your students
- Available Lumi Nova resources: How to access and use them
- How Lumi Nova supports the Whole School ApproachHow Lumi Nova aligns to the Ofsted Framework
- Insights into the impact of Lumi Nova in Hertfordshire
- Local Case Studies and School Case Studies



Lumi Nova in Hertfordshire: What's Been Happening?



We are delighted to invite you to learn more about Lumi Nova's impact, see how it is being used across Hertfordshire and hear local case studies.

Lumi Nova In Hertfordshire: What's Been Happening?

Friday 25th September 2026 @ 10:30am

[Click here to secure your place!](#)

The webinar will include:

- Reach, outcomes and impact (including SEND)
- Insights into local need - what's worrying children in Hertfordshire?
- Local Case studies
- How to use Lumi Nova resources
- How Lumi Nova can support your work and how to signpost

New to Lumi Nova? Join a [Lumi Nova Discovery](#) to learn everything you need to know about the offer.

For more information visit our website:[Luminova.app](#)



North Hertfordshire College is pleased to announce our November open event at **Springboard Watford** which will be held on **Thursday 5th November 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 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 local authority.

All candidates out of Herts do need EHCP.

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 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 and there is no need to book to attend.

Please forward this email to any students, parents or professional contacts who may be interested in attending.

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.

Prospectus link:

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/1aec11b4-4cdf-4dde-9ebb-978bf90a1b02>

