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## DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 1

11.09.24



Welcome back to another school year. We hope you had a good summer and managed to have a well deserved break. It looks to be another busy and exciting year and DSPL 9 will be here to support you through it, so please get in contact with us if you have any questions or queries. Remember no question is a silly question!

For those of you who are new to the role of SENCo and DSPL 9, we hope you find the DSPL 9 newsletter useful and informative, and enables you to stay up to date in the world of SEND.

Any queries or questions, please don't hesitate to make contact:

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

07376 394191



### DSPL 9 SENCo Forum/HFL SEND Briefing

DSPL 9 will continue to commission HFL to deliver the SEND Briefing this academic year. This will enable 50 SENCos to attend the sessions and receive up to date national and local updates. In addition to this, those SENCos attending will also be able to hear about DSPL 9 news and updates in the final hour.

#### Autumn Term Details:

Date: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Time: 1-4pm

Venue: The Grange Academy, London Rd, Bushey WD23 3AA

Please be reminded that by signing up you are agreeing to attend both the HFL SEND briefing and the DSPL 9 SENCo updates.

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/1324203>

**This event is funded by DSPL9 and as a result, any 'no shows' (without sufficient notice to enable the place to be given to a colleague on the waiting list) will be charged at £22.00.**

**Should you need to cancel your place this must be done by emailing [admin@dsplarea9.org.uk](mailto:admin@dsplarea9.org.uk). Please not cancel or change your booking via any other means. This is to ensure the place can be made available to waiting DSPL9 colleagues.**



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## DSPL 9 EBSA Support Package Relaunch and Training

**Date:** Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

**Time:** 9:30 AM - 12:15 PM

**Venue:** The Stanborough Centre, St Albans Road, Watford  
(Fully funded by DSPL 9)

DSPL 9 is pleased to share with you that the EBSA support package will remain as a service in the next academic year.

Tier 3 solution circles have been a great opportunity to discuss individual cases and gain different perspectives, ideas, and solutions. (SENCo)

What an amazing resource. Our school have really benefited from this service and we would like to continue to use this resource next year. The advice given and professionals involved are fantastic and the children have made progress.  
(SENCo)

Excellent service provided, joined up approach was really successful. Luke (Nessie Therapist) was excellent, very supportive and knowledgeable. Rebecca (FSW) was fantastic and approachable. (Pastoral lead)

Life changing.  
(Parent)

I'm feeling very grateful to everyone who has supported us. Without the intervention I am not sure (child) would have made it through the rest of year 6. (Parent)

**SENcos, Pastoral Leads and Mental Health Leads are invited to attend and access:**

- The relaunch to learn about all aspects of the EBSA Support Package
- Training to develop an understanding of the factors that may contribute to children's difficulties attending school and explore strategies to support the children through Emotionally Based School Avoidance.
- An introduction to the Nessie 'My feelings and me' 12 week program to support CYP experiencing EBSA.
- Meeting the DSPL 9 EBSA Team

**Spaces are limited to 1 person per school.**

[Click here to book!](#)



### DSPL 9 SENCo Surgeries September/October Dates

Please feel free to drop in to any of the SENCo surgeries over the next two months using the links below. These sessions will be attended by Gemma Hall and Mandy Brandon who will be on standby to support you and answer any queries or questions you have:

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024**  
**8-8.30am**

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

**[Join the meeting now](#)**

Meeting ID: 375 453 527 693  
Passcode: UvstyV

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024**  
**8-8.30am**

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

**[Join the meeting now](#)**

Meeting ID: 313 539 581 396  
Passcode: JhSkxp

### DSPL 9 SENCo Solution Circles September/October Dates

These will run between 4-5pm and will enable a maximum of 3 SENCos to attend, share a current situation (individual CYP: unnamed) and seek advice, support and signposting. To book a place on a solution circle please click on the links below:

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 4-5pm:  
<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/1294258>

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 4-5pm  
<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/1294258>



### THE ACORN CENTRE

We are moving! Brand new premises open as of 9th September 2024

THE ACORN CENTRE  
39 Oxhey Drive  
South Oxhey  
WD19 7SD

### Existing support to continue

Increased capacity and new branding coming soon

[www.theacorncentre.co.uk](http://www.theacorncentre.co.uk)

Contact Information		
Main office 07946 266 107 <a href="mailto:admin.acorn@warrendell.herts.sch.uk">admin.acorn@warrendell.herts.sch.uk</a>	Kellie Barton – Provision Lead 07946 266 107 <a href="mailto:acornprolead@warrendell.herts.sch.uk">acornprolead@warrendell.herts.sch.uk</a>	Jenny Morley – Executive Head 0208 428 4571 <a href="mailto:head@warrendell.herts.sch.uk">head@warrendell.herts.sch.uk</a>

**DSPL 9  
New to Role SENCo Group  
2024-25**

Definitely attend!!

A really useful introduction to how SEN works in Hertfordshire - who does what, how to access information and who to ask if you need more help. Informal, supportive and fun too!

I would recommend it for networking and to share experiences and feel less alone in what can be a lonely role.

*The DSPL 9 New to Role SENCo group offers opportunities each month for networking and meeting other new SENCos, litebite training on topics such as understanding the role of SENCo and making referrals and applications. Most importantly it is a chance to chat and discuss any issues that may arise as part of the role. Whether you are new to the role of SENCo or have recently joined Hertfordshire from another borough, we would love for you to join us!*

*NB: These sessions can be accessed by any experienced SENCos who would benefit from refreshing their knowledge.*

Date	Time	Venue	Topic
24 <sup>th</sup> September	3.30-5pm	MT	Being a new-to-Role SENCo
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	3.30-5pm	MT	Local High Needs Funding (LHNF) The graduated Approach
19 <sup>th</sup> November	3.30-5pm	MT	EHCPs Applications and Reviews
21 <sup>st</sup> January	3.30-5pm	MT	VSEND
25 <sup>th</sup> February	3.30-5pm	MT	Assessments and referrals
25 <sup>th</sup> March	3.30-5pm	MT	Mental Health and Wellbeing
29 <sup>rd</sup> April	3.30-5pm	Bournehall Primary	Solution Circles (Face to Face)
20 <sup>th</sup> May	3.30-5pm	MT	Audits and Action Plans Benchmarking Tool
24 <sup>th</sup> June	3.30-5pm	MT	TBA

To book: email [admin@dsplarea9.org.uk](mailto:admin@dsplarea9.org.uk)

**The Hertfordshire SEND Toolkit (6<sup>th</sup> Edition)**

The sixth edition has a new contemporary look as well as enhanced accessibility features and is packed full of helpful information, useful tools and resources and links to a wide range of national and local guidance.

This year's highlights include:

- An updated SEND context poster reflecting 2024 data and, by popular request, includes specific nursery, primary and secondary phase information.
- A new section on gathering pupil voice
- Refreshed information from mental health and other therapy services
- Links to every essential local authority SEND tool and template.



To access this incredible tool please use the following link: <https://shop.hfleducation.org/resources/send-toolkit-sixth-edition>



### ADHD Training: Autumn 2024

Fully funded ADD-Vance training for school dates have been confirmed for the autumn term:

Tuesday 22nd October – Understanding ADHD – Primary Schools

Thursday 24th October – Understanding ADHD – Secondary Schools

Wednesday 6th November – Challenging Behaviours

Monday 11th November – Managing Transitions

Wednesday 20th November – Supporting Sensory Differences

This is more than likely to be the last round of fully funded training available from ADD-Vance so please take advantage of these opportunities.

All information including how to book can be found on the attached flyers.



Two short EHC Needs Assessment Training sessions are to be delivered this half term by the Hertfordshire SEND academy legal team. These sessions will provide updates around the caselaw in the EHC Needs Assessment Process.

The sessions are taking place on:

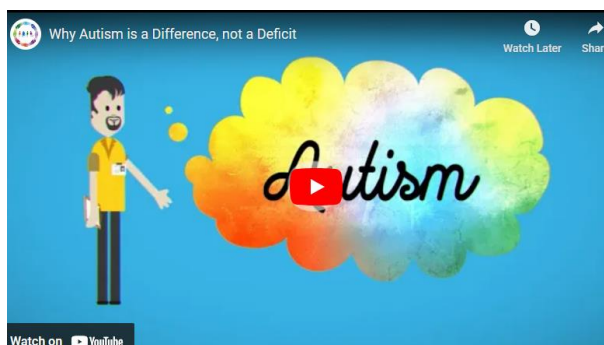
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 4-5pm** [Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 321 877 263 763 Passcode: T7q3L5

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 11-12pm** [Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 321 877 263 763 Passcode: T7q3L5

**Please note both sessions contain the same information so you only need attend one of the dates.**

### Autism Education Trust Why autism is a difference not a deficit video

'We want to promote wider understanding that autistic people have strengths and differences in three key areas of development.'



Click [here](#) to watch the video.



Attention all Secondary schools.....

**cogs** Hertfordshire **NHS** Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care Board

Learn about ADHD and autism on your phone!

If you are 14 or above, live in Hertfordshire and:

- Have ADHD (or think you do)
- Are autistic (or think you are)
- Or both

You can now access the Cogs app for free!

The app helps you understand more about ADHD and autism and how to manage them to your advantage.

To find out more and get your free access, search:

<https://thetoolbox.mindler.co.uk/hertfordshire>

Then scroll to the Cogs offer!

Social media takeover by Voices of Hertfordshire

For World Disability Day, 3 December 2024  
Get involved! Email: [sarah.stevens2@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.stevens2@hertfordshire.gov.uk)  
by 20 September 2024

Hertfordshire

This World Disability Day, 3rd December 2024, Voices of Hertfordshire are joining together with [@hertscc](#) [@herts\\_cypt](#) [@hct\\_schoolnursing](#) [@hccsfyp](#) for a children and young person takeover of our social media channels. Are you a school leader? Working with young people with SEND? This day – led by our experts by experience supported by our social media communications teams – young people have the chance to pose questions for senior leaders across education, health and county council services?

Get involved by emailing [sarah.stevens2@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.stevens2@hertfordshire.gov.uk) to get your free social media takeover kit.'

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### PARENT/CARER COFFEE MORNING

For all parents/carers of children with SEND

WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 10.00AM-11.30AM

ASDA WATFORD COMMUNITY ROOM 4  
ST ALBANS RD, WATFORD WD24 7RT

Please join the DSPL9 Triage team to find out about the support available locally and to meet other parents and carers of children with SEND.

If you would like to attend or to find out more please email us at  
[enquiries@dsplareag.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dsplareag.org.uk)

Please share the attached flyer for the next parent/carers coffee morning across your school community.



# SANDY SOULS TRAINING



Would you like to come and unleash your sandy soul?

Learn how to support children to connect and tell their stories in the sand.

I will be combining the core skills of Sand Story® with Sand Play to allow children to express themselves and any difficulties they may be facing.

Sandy Souls is non-directive and allows the child to reflect on their experiences (home/school/ community) to support their understanding, particularly for those who are not keen to talk or express themselves verbally.

Learn about the 5 stages of sand story®, sand play and how being an emotionally available adult (EAA) can support children in being able to understand themselves and their situations. Sandy Souls is used as a gentle therapeutic approach for children to tell their story and make better sense of their emotional world. This creative training allows a safe practice for EAA's in being able to support children with additional difficulties.

#### **Training Taking Place**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September

9:30-2:30

Otley Way Family Centre

Otley Way

South Oxhey

WD19 1TB

**£175**

#### **Training Taking Place**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September

Westfield Primary Academy

Durrants Lane

Berkhamsted

Herts

HP4 3PJ

**£175**

For more information, please contact Nikki on 07766230760 or email  
[enquiries@overtherainbowcsf.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@overtherainbowcsf.co.uk) to reserve your place.



## Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust

### Speech and Language Therapy SENCO Refresher

Hi Everyone,

We will be running a **Speech and Language Therapy SENCO Refresher training on Tuesday 8th October at 14.30-15.30** on Microsoft Teams. Please find the link to your right. This training is open to new SENCOs or anyone who would like some more information on how the service works.

The training will cover:

- Who the service supports
- Referral criteria
- How to make a referral
- Service Pathway

We hope to see you there.

Kind Regards,

Hadassa and Laura

Speech and Language Education leads

## Microsoft

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

### [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 391 045 513 518

Passcode: FeG5vH

Please find attached to this email the flyers for speech and language training available this term.



The Emotional Mental Wellbeing in Education (EMWiE) Team have published new training information from September 2024, suitable for all education settings in Hertfordshire. The content of the courses on offer is listed below and on the attached flyers. To book your place follow the links on the flyers.

#### [Introduction to Mental Health Leads Training](#): \* For NEW MHLs/DMHLs. [ONLINE AND FACE TO FACE OPTIONS](#)

- Emotional wellbeing and mental health in children and young people
- The roles and responsibilities of a mental health lead in education
- Introduction to Department for Education's Whole School/College Approach to emotional and mental wellbeing and how to embed in your setting
- Staff Wellbeing
- Children & Young Peoples Mental Health Services overview in Hertfordshire
- Practical examples and sharing of good practice

#### [Mental Health Leads Refresher Training](#) – only applicable if you have not had training in the last 2 years

- Emotional wellbeing and mental health in children and young people
- Children & Young Peoples Mental Health Services overview in Hertfordshire
- Sharing good practice on Whole School/College Approach to emotional and mental wellbeing

#### [Developing your Whole School/College Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing](#)

- The Department for Education Whole School/ College Approach
- How to create or further develop your own school/college action plan
- Sharing best practice with other education settings
- Overview of Hertfordshire's Schools Mark

All flyers and booking information are attached to the email.



## Young persons voice - emotional based school avoidance and SEND

The Inclusion and Skills Participation lead has shared an animation (below) that has been created by a 17 year old who currently attends special school part time.

<https://youtu.be/yIZbsgsgfE0?si=SrVI7-umhvqV8TAB>

Stephanie Curtis – Mum says, 'I think it's important to recognise that school is not the right route for every child - our daughter has been attending a specialist school part time for the last year and although it has been great in some ways, it's still not the perfect solution.'

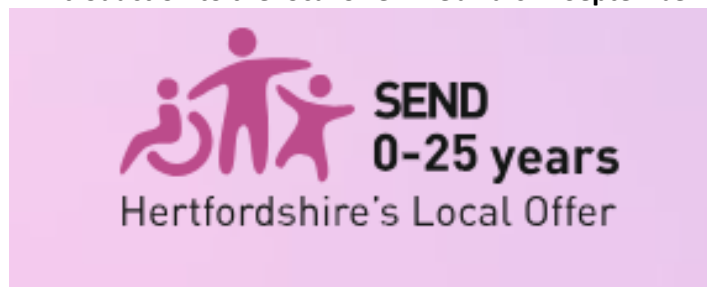
I hope you find it useful.

## Understanding My Autism/ADHD Workshops In Hertfordshire



Click [here](#) to find out about the Understanding My Autism workshops. The toolbox also offers support to neurodiverse CYP and offers a live chat.

## 'Introduction to the local offer' webinars in September



'Introduction to the SEND Local Offer website' – webinar

The Local Offer website lets parents, young people and professionals know what special educational needs and disabilities services are available in Hertfordshire, and who can access them. There is so much more than that, too.

A friendly face from the Local Offer team will take you through what's on the website and how you can use it to find the right services and support.

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer)

(For professionals) Tuesday 24 September at 10am - 11am [Join the meeting](#)

(For professionals) Wednesday 25 September 2pm - 3pm [Join the meeting](#)

(for professionals AND parent carers) Wednesday 25 September 8pm - 9pm [Join the meeting](#)

A quick note: The Local Offer website is different to Short Breaks (SBLO). We won't be going into detail about SBLO.

# Spark Free School Taster Sessions

Spark is a creative wellbeing group for young people aged 12-17 in your local area.

Your closest Spark group is:  
The Wellbeing Centre,  
501 St Albans Road,  
Watford,  
Hertfordshire,  
WD24 7RZ

Your local group runs on **Tuesdays from 6-8pm**

We would love to get more local young people exploring emotional wellbeing through creativity, making friends and building confidence. Our group facilitators would love the opportunity to come and run a free taster session at your school, perhaps during lunchtime or another convenient time for your students.

**Please turnover to find out how to book!**

 Mind Hertfordshire Network

# How to book

Simply select a group of young people (up to 10) you feel could benefit from using creativity to support their mental health and who might like to attend our group in the future.

We can then run an hour-long session with these young people, introducing ourselves and giving them an idea of some of the activities we offer in the group.

We will bring our own resources and some information for the young people to take away in the hopes they will get in touch and come along to our weekly groups at local Mind wellbeing centres.

Please get in touch with us at [cyp@hertsmindnetwork.org](mailto:cyp@hertsmindnetwork.org) if you are interested in booking a taster session at your school!

## BEING ME

### Supporting your students to understand their neurodiversity

Join us for an insightful evening dedicated to helping teachers and education staff better understand neurodiversity through the lived experiences of young people. This one-off event brings powerful video testimonies and valuable insights from young neurodiverse voices into the room, offering a unique opportunity to hear directly from them as they share their stories, challenges, and successes in navigating the world around them.

By attending this event, you will:

- Learn how to support children in your school to identify and advocate for their own needs.
- Gain strategies to help neurodiverse students develop meaningful friendships and social skills.
- Explore ways to empower pupils to problem-solve and manage challenging situations.
- Be inspired to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for all students, embracing the full spectrum of neurodiversity.

**Speakers of the day:**



**Sophia Christophi**

A young woman with Tourette's and Autism, SPACE Trainer, and Peer Support Worker. Sophia will share her journey and insights on neurodiversity.



**Chris Russell**

SPACE Training Lead and Family Support Manager. Chris will offer practical tools and strategies for supporting neurodiverse students.

## SPACE Hertfordshire Professionals Conference 2024

Date: Wednesday, 9th  
October - 4.30pm - 7.30pm

Venue: Hotel Cromwell,  
Stevenage, SG1 3AZ

Who should attend?  
Teachers and education  
staff of young people 0-18

Early bird offer:  
£20 plus Eventbrite  
booking fee



Scan to book



In-person event, not to be missed



Autism | ADHD  
Neurodiverse Conditions

**Autumn term:  
'Supporting Pupils with Down Syndrome in Education'.**

The training course includes:

- an online workshop
- a day of face to face training
- a visit from a Specialist Down Syndrome Advisor into your school



**SUPPORTING  
PUPILS WITH  
DOWN  
SYNDROME IN  
EDUCATION**



**Meet our trainer:**

**Helen Long**

Down Syndrome Specialist Advisory  
Teacher, SENCo, parent and teacher



A **THREE PART** course in autumn for teachers, TAs and other education professionals working with children with Down Syndrome, in Hertfordshire and the surrounding counties.

**1) Online: 'Introduction to Down Syndrome'** - Monday 21st October, 4pm - 5:30pm

**2) Face to face: 'Supporting Pupils with DS at School'** - Friday 8th November, 9am - 3:30pm, at Holy Rood Catholic Primary School, Greenbank Road, Watford, WD17 4FS  
This will cover **key points** on the following topics:

- Reading - how to teach reading and how to use it across the curriculum and to teach expressive language
- Literacy - including spelling and recording information
- Maths
- Behaviour and Social Development

**3) Bespoke guidance and training at your school** focused on the individual child(ren) you support. A DS Specialist Advisor will visit your school as part of our Resources into Schools programme. This includes an assessment of the child's challenges and a recommendation for a resource and/or additional training which will be provided by DS Achieve in school.



Dear Colleagues

We are taking bookings for a new Level 1 course in November and have one place available for our course starting next week. If you have completed Level 1 and wish to progress, there is a Level 2 course next term:

**Online Level 1:**

18 & 25 November (Mondays) 9.30am – 4.30pm

The cost per place is £245 + VAT and includes our Level 1 book, further resources during the course and certificate

[Please click here for booking form.....](#)

**Online Level 2:**

27, 28 Feb, 6 & 7 March 9.30am – 12.30 and Thursday 13 March 2025

The cost per place is £445 & VAT and includes the course workbook and certificate

[Please click here for booking form.....](#)

For all training bookings and enquiries or to request a word version of the booking form, please email [admin@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk](mailto:admin@familiesfeelingsafe.co.uk)

As always, we'll look forward to working with you.

With kind regards

Fiona