



DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 4

23.10.24

**BOOKINGS
OPEN**

Good practice sharing event: Assessing CYP with SEND

Following a positive response to the good practice sharing events that took place in the last academic year, the DSPL 9 SEND Review group are pleased to inform you that these sessions will continue to take place on a termly basis this year.

The focus of the autumn term event will be assessing CYP with SEND. In order for this session to be productive and useful we are asking those SENCOs who attend to share prior to the event the assessment tools they currently use in school. The intention is that this will be used to develop a live directory of assessment that can be used by all SENCOs across the local area when considering how best to assess a child. We ask that you include your name and email as part of the information shared to enable local SENCOs to make contact with each other and further discuss the assessments (peer to peer support).

Date: Thursday 21st November 2024

Time: 1.30-3.30pm

Venue: The Grove Academy, Fourth Ave, Watford WD25 9RH

Please note: All attending are expected to complete the google form prior to the event and bring with them examples of the assessment tools they currently use. By completing the google form you are agreeing to your information (including email address) being shared across DSPL 9 with local SENCOs.

Outline for the session:

1.30-2.00	HFL Assessing CYP with SEND: Why, how and so what!
2.00-2.40	Small group discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Tools for Cognition and Learning • Assessment Tools for Communication and Interaction Spotlight demonstrations
2.40-2.50	Short break
2.50-3.30	Small group discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Tools for SEMH • Assessment Tools for Physical and Sensory Spotlight demonstrations

To book a place on this session please follow the link below ensuring you state your role within the school:

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/1434965>

Any questions regarding this event please contact Gemma Hall on gemmahall@dsplarea9.org.uk



DSPL 9 SENCo Surgeries October/November 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 23rd October 2024
8-8.30am

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)
[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 359 561 490 011
Passcode: ERHq7R

Tuesday 5th November 2024
8-8.30am

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)
[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 328 337 598 227
Passcode: MY9uYY

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 23rd October, 4-5pm:

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/1294258>

Tuesday 5th November, 4-5pm

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/1294258>



LHNF Update

Following the October LHNF panel, please can SENCos be reminded that if they are completing a resubmission for further funding, evidence of impact of funds already received **MUST** be within the application. Without this evidence further funding may not be agreed. Schools should not make an assumption that additional funding will be granted.

Within section 5 of the LHNF application form it states:

Please also indicate whether this is a resubmission, whether there has been previous funding from LHNF or another source and, if so, what was the impact.



Hertfordshire: Preparing for Adulthood Training

Join us for a series of online workshops focused on Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) to support enhancing SEND services. These workshops aim to develop a shared understanding of what Preparing for Adulthood is and how it intersects across health and social care and requires a multi-agency approach to be effective.

There are six sessions to choose from. **Please only book on one training as these are all the same training.**

Please see attached flyer for all dates and how to book.



Annual Review Training Recording

Following the annual review training that was delivered earlier this term, both the slides and a video recording of the session are now available.

Please follow the link below to access both:

<https://thegrid.org.uk/send-and-additional-needs/send-training/annual-review-training>

Further EHCP support and training

At the recent SEND Review Group, a discussion around EHCP support took place and following that communication was sort with the EHCP Quality Assurance team regarding this. We have been informed that there will continue to be a number of training sessions over the course of this academic year to provide support around the different elements of the EHCP process.

Planned support/training:

Term	Session Title	Dates
Autumn 1	Ensuring High Quality Annual Reviews	Friday September 6 th 9.30-11.30am Tuesday 1 st October 1.30-3.30pm
Autumn 2	Ensuring High Quality Educational Advice	Tuesday 19 th November 10am-12pm Monday 16 th December 1-3pm
Spring 1	The SEND Appeals Process	Friday 10 th January 9.30-11.30am Tuesday 4 th February 1.30-3.30pm
Spring 2	Preparing for Adulthood from the Earliest Years	Thursday 6 th March 9.30-11.30 Monday 31 st March 1.30-3.30pm
Summer 1	Placements and Funding Process	Tuesday 29 th April 9.30-11.30am Wednesday 21 st May 1.30-3.30pm
Summer 2	TBC	Wednesday 11 th June 9.30-11.30am Friday 18 th July 1.30-3.30pm

The table above is subject to change, however does provide SENCoS with an idea of the content of training opportunities moving forward. As soon as further flyers and information is available they will be shared.

Information around the next training session from the SEND academy: 'Ensuring High Quality Educations Advice' can be found on the attached flyer.



Hertfordshire Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey 2024 will go live on Monday Nov 4th - Friday 20th December! Any young person can complete the Survey. To access please follow the link www.hertshealthevidence.org/yphws or use the QR code in the eflyer (attached above).



Cognition and Learning Team Training Opportunities

Strategies for Children with Writing Difficulties

A course for school staff working in Years 1 – 6 looking at writing difficulties and suggested approaches to resolve them. This is a repeat of our summer webinar, but face to face, which allows time to interact and ask questions.

Whizzy's Words 2

A Phase 2 phonics one-to-one early phonics intervention for children struggling to learn Phase 2 sounds, making limited progress and not yet blending or segmenting sounds in consonant-vowel-consonant words.

Please see the attached flyer for further details including how to book.

Chessbrook
Education Support Centre
Courage | Pride | Resilience

CESC Talks

We invite you to attend our exciting new 'CESC' Talks
Research led and action based sessions to empower school staff from KS1 to KS4 to support and engage their students.

24/10/2024
3:45pm - 5:30pm
Safeguarding themes from the last 12 months. How you can reinforce safeguarding in your setting
Michael Chapman

14/11/2024
3:45pm - 5:30pm
Stress Regulation
Understanding and responding to behaviours
Gita Newth and Jo Turner

23/01/2025
3:45pm - 5:30pm
Teaching the difference between equity and equality: empower your class to be inclusive
Jess King

20/03/2025
3:45pm - 5:30pm
Blocked Trust, Blocked Care
Supporting hard to reach* students
Gita Newth and Jo Turner

12/06/2025
3:45pm - 5:30pm
Communication and Interaction
Utilising strategies to positively impact all
Jess King

Join our experienced staff to share successful strategies that can be used in mainstream settings. Develop your knowledge through theoretical underpinning, case studies, current legislation and practical strategies to implement in your classroom.

Address: Chessbrook ESC, Tolpits Lane, Watford, WD18 6LJ

Limited to 40 spaces - Only apply if you can attend
Open to all primary and secondary school staff, non-teaching parental staff, teachers & leaders
Sessions are ***FREE** to schools within South West Hertfordshire
*Schools outside of SWH are charged at \$35 per session

Please see flyer for further details.



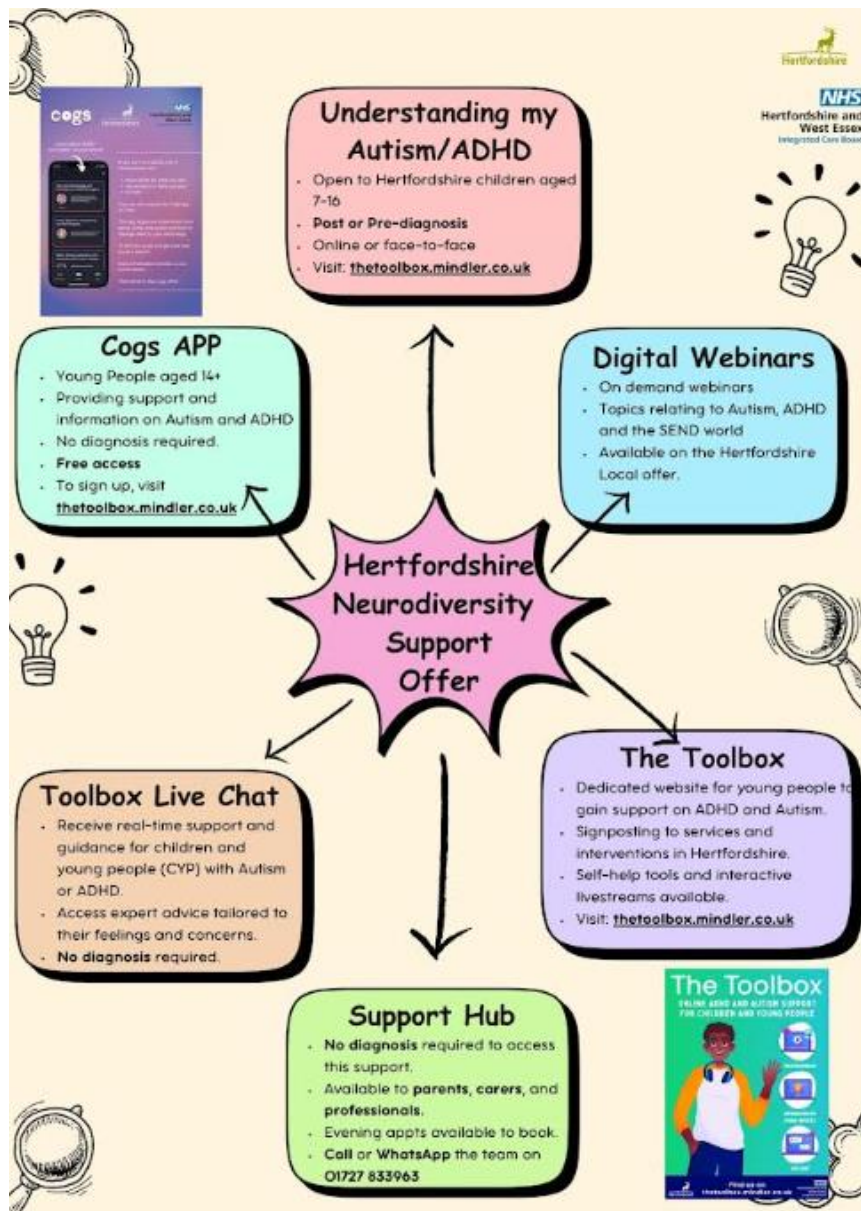
Hertfordshire Neurodiversity Support Offer

Please find attached a flyer advertising the Neurodiversity Support offer for parents/carers, professionals and young people in Hertfordshire. The HCC and ICB offer consists of various resources including group courses, webinars and a live web chat for young people as well as the support hub and digital webinars for parent/carers and professionals. We would be very keen to attend your next SENCO forum or any other professionals meeting you may have, to talk about the Neurodiversity offer in more detail, please do let us know any dates and times.

We have also produced a [Neurodiversity Handbook](#) which offers lots of resources, support and signposting for parents and carers.

Please also look at the Neurodiversity directory [Neurodiversity Service Directory \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#) for further avenues of support.

Details of all these offers can also be found on the [Neurodiversity Support \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#).



Dear Headteacher / SENCO

[HPCI Annual Parent Carer Survey \(2024\) – closing date 3 November](#)

[Herts Parent Carer Involvement](#) exists to represent the views of the parents and carers of children and young people with SEND in Hertfordshire. We are an independent parent-led organisation, who work alongside Hertfordshire health, education and social care services, to help focus the decision makers on improving services and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

We have launched our 2024 annual survey, to find out more about what families in Hertfordshire are experiencing. We want to know what works and what doesn't, so that we can make sure we are concentrating on the areas that matter most to the families you support.

We would be really grateful if you could please share our survey however you think is best. That could be an e-mail to the families with SEND in school, a paragraph in the school newsletter, or by re-tweeting/sharing our message on social media ([click here for our Facebook post](#)). I've also attached a graphic you could use if helpful.

The survey is **open until 3 November 2024** and the information we gain is vital. It will help us prioritise our work and importantly, give us more data to back up what we are saying to the education, health and social care systems that we engage with.

The more families who take part in our survey, the more powerful our voices become. We don't just want to hear from families with EHCPs or children with a formal diagnosis; we want to know how the system works for all families, at all stages in the process.

To complete the survey, families need to click here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/HPCISurvey2024

We are offering anyone who completes the survey the chance to enter a prize draw to win a Simmons gift voucher.

If you have any queries at all, please do let me know and many thanks in advance for your support.

All best wishes,

Kate

Kate Hudson (she/her)

Operations Lead

Herts Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI)

07840 360245

Please be aware that this is a part-time role so a response may take several days.





DSPL 9 Parent/care monthly EBSA Support Groups

DSPL 9 will be facilitating monthly virtual support groups for parents and carers of CYP experiencing EBSA. These groups will provide a safe space for parents/carers to share their experiences, listen to other parents in similar situations and seek support from those attending the group. In addition to the DSPL 9 Manager and Family Support Workers attending, there will be guest speakers at each session to provide further support, signposting and advice.

The first session will be taking place on Monday 18th November from 1-2.30pm via Microsoft teams.

Please share the attached flyer with your school community and specific parents/carers who you feel would benefit from attending.

For any further questions please contact gemma@dsplarea9.org.uk

All information around the DSPL 9 EBSA Support can be found [here](#)



Thank you so much for your interest in our SEND children and young person takeover event taking place on the 3rd December 2024.

I am now pleased to share with you the SEND takeover toolkit (see attached) which you can share with your teams. I also attach some Instagram squares which you may like to use on your Instagram feeds.

You can also find out more by following the two links below:

[Voices of Hertfordshire \(@voicesofhertfordshire\) • Instagram photos and videos](#) and [Voices of Hertfordshire \(@voicesofhertfordshire\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

I hope you will find this information useful and that it will help you to promote the event with your young people with SEND. We have young experts by experience (aged 19- 25 with lived experience of SEND) leading on the day itself and they will have the chance to pose questions to key leaders across the council, NHS and education settings.



Please click [here](#) to access the October 2024 CYPMHS newsletter.



North Hertfordshire College is pleased to announce our open afternoon at **Springboard Watford** which will be held on **Thursday 14th of 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 local Sainsbury's where you can park for free for two hours, or 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 is for 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 a 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.

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 meet with you on an individual basis. Please email Mark at the above email and we can arrange for you to come in and see us. Alternatively, we can come to your setting to meet with you and any groups of students and parents that you believe would benefit from Springboard.