



Delivering Special
Provision Locally



DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 7

11.12.24



This will be the last newsletter for the autumn term.

Thank you for your continued support and hard work. I am sure you will agree that this has been a busy term, but despite this, as always you have continued to support the SEND CYP you work with to ensure their needs are met and their voices are heard.

Have a wonderful Christmas break and a well deserved rest. See you all in 2025!

DSPL9/HFL SENCo Forum



Thank you to all those SENCos who joined us at the DSPL 9/HFL SENCo Forum last week. It was great to see so many of you. Thank you also to Jo at The Grange for providing a fantastic venue and refreshments.

Congratulations to Cherry Tree for achieving the Herts Shining Communication Award!

The next DSPL 9/HFL SENCo Forum will take place on Wednesday 19th March 2025 from 1-4pm at The Grove Academy, Fourth Ave, Watford WD25 9RH. Tickets will be available in the new year.

DSPL 9 SENCo Surgeries: January 2025

Myself and Mandy Brandon will be available on Tuesday 14th and 28th January from 8-8.30am to answer any questions of queries that you may have. Please use the links below to access these opportunities:

Tuesday 14th January

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 333 110 983 034

Passcode: ChwCi5

Tuesday 28th January

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 329 168 421 70

Passcode: frAKTd



SEMH Focused Solution Circles

In collaboration with Chessbrook ESC, DSPL 9 will be adapting the fortnightly solution circles on offer in the spring and summer term to make them more specific. Each session will now have an SEMH focus and be divided into primary and secondary specific session.

Access to these sessions will be via a google form which will be shared by either myself, Mandy Brandon, Gita Newth or Emma McShannon. On completion of the google form you will be offered a date and time (3.30-4.30pm) to access this support.

Monday 20 th January	Primary SEMH Focus
Monday 3 rd February	Secondary SEMH Focus
Monday 19 th March	Primary SEMH Focus
Monday 31 st March	Secondary SEMH Focus
Monday 12 th May	Secondary Focus
Thursday 15 th May	Primary SEMH Focus
Monday 16 th June	Primary SEMH Focus
Monday 7 th July	Secondary SEMH Focus

For further information please contact either myself, Mandy Brandon or the Chessbrook team.



DSPL 9 EBSA Support: tier 3 and 4

Bookings are currently being accepted for the tier 3 solution circles in the spring term:

Monday 13th January

Monday 27th January

Monday 3rd March

Monday 24th March

Please contact admon@dsplarea9.org.uk to book a place before completing the paperwork.

The deadline for the second round of tier 4 support is **20.01.25**. Please ensure any referrals and supporting evidence for this support is sent via schoolsfx to admin@dsplarea9.org.uk

UPDATE

Curiosity Approach Training Session

Due to current staffing issues in the EYs SEND team, the decision has been made to cancel the webinar due to take place on Monday 13th January and replace this with two face to face sessions across the spring and summer term. The delivery of this training is best suited to a face to face situation and therefore moving to this style of training will enhance the delivery.

As soon as dates have been confirmed they will be shared via the DSPL 9 newsletter.



Hertfordshire SEND ACADEMY **EHCP Educational Advice for Schools & Settings**

Ensuring High Quality Educational Advice

Asked to complete Educational Advice but unsure why?
Want to know how to complete high quality Educational Advice?
Want to improve quality of plans for the children in your setting?
Want to know about Hertfordshire's Ordinarily Available Provision?

Then this training is for you!

- Tuesday 19th November – 10.00am-12.00pm **MS Teams**
[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 356 355 343 704 Passcode: LHucJ5
- Monday 16th December - 1.00-3.00pm
[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 375 005 260 069 Passcode: Y9ukHF

If you can not join any of these meetings but would like to receive a recording please email policyandpractice@hertfordshire.gov.uk

We look forward to seeing you.

SEND QA Team

Hertfordshire SEND ACADEMY **Training for Schools & Education Settings**

The SEND Appeals Process

Want to know what an appeal is, and the process in Hertfordshire?
Want to learn about our new appeals toolkit for settings?
Want to know what your role is as an education setting in the appeals process?
Want to know details regarding witness statements, attending an appeal and example questions you may be asked?

Then this training is for you!

This training will focus on all types of appeal once an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) **has been issued**. This will not cover appeals relating to Refusal to Assess or Refusal to Issue.

Please note that this session will be **split into 2 halves**. The first hour will be aimed at mainstream settings, and the second hour aimed at more specialist settings (but you are all more than welcome to attend the full 2 hours, if you feel it would be of benefit)

Friday 10th January 2025, 9.30 - 11.30am, online on MS Teams
[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 321 775 614 491 Passcode: XZ8cJy

If you can't join the session but would like to receive a recording, please email policyandpractice@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

We look forward to seeing you.

SEND QA Team

Hertfordshire SEND ACADEMY **Consultations Training for schools and education settings**

Consultations; what, why and when?

What are consultations, Why do they happen, What is the process?

- Parental rights
- What is sufficient information?
- Responses to consultation – including the new consultation form
 - What is considered?
 - What happens next?
- What support is there for schools?

- Tuesday 4th February – 1.30-3.30pm **MS Teams**
[Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 374 246 044 330 Passcode: TNvdCF

If you can not join this meeting but would like to receive a recording please email policyandpractice@hertfordshire.gov.uk

We look forward to seeing you.

SEND QA Team

All flyers with the live links to attend these meetings have been sent with this newsletter.

DSPL 9
Benchmarking and Planning Tool Sessions

DSPL 9 would like to invite SENCOs to attend either of the sessions provided to take time to complete their Benchmarking and Planning Tool and reflect upon their current practice prior to the survey in the summer term.

Purpose of the session:

- Completion of the Benchmarking and Planning Tool
- Dedicated time to consider each of the 5 outcomes and if the school is working at an emerging, expected or exemplary level.
- Celebrate the areas that are working well and consider those areas that need to be developed.
- Network with other local SENCOs and discuss aspects of the tool.

Date: Thursday 3rd April 2025
Time: 9.30-11.30 **OR** 1.30-3.30pm
Venue: The Green Room, Bournehall Primary School

To book your place please use the link below

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/1489408>

Book early to avoid missing this opportunity.



EHCP Audits using Invision 360

FURTHER DATE ADDED
Ensuring high quality EHCPs

One of the actions in the SEND Improvement plan is to increase the number of new and amended EHC plans that are audited as good or better, as nationally benchmarked by Invision 360.

This session is for members of SLT and SENCOs in DSPL9:

- To understand why we are auditing Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
- To become familiar with the *Invision360 Auditing tool* and what a good EHC plan looks like.
- To learn how to audit an EHCP.

So that:

- You feel confident in knowing what a good EHCP should look like.
- You understand how the auditing framework works and to use this in collaboration with LA to ensure good quality plans for C/YP
- You can audit your own schools' plans (if you wish to do so)
-

Monday 3rd February 2025
1.00-2.30pm

Venue: The Green Room, Bournehall Primary School.

[Click here to book](#)

NEW OFFER

Consultation Advice



What is it? A consultation focussing on a specific recurring need identified across a small group or cohort, for example, early writing difficulties, reading fluency or comprehension, spelling, working memory in the classroom. We will provide strategies and resources that can support an identified common difficulty.

This consultation will not be based on named or unnamed individual pupils and cannot be used as evidence for an EHCP.

How it will work School will provide the evidence we have requested and a consultation will be booked in with a Specialist Advisory Teacher from the Cognition and Learning Team. A meeting of approximately one and a half hours will be arranged to provide modelling with staff, practical strategies, recommendations and resources to support the identified need. We may also signpost you to further training delivered by the Cognition Learning Team.

Form required to access this service A Consultation information request form needs to be completed in the first instance to provide evidence that demonstrates what the particular need is and how it is presenting across the group or cohort. After receipt of this form, you will be contacted by a member of the Cognition and Learning Team to discuss your needs in further detail.

[\[NGaf6GtZ5uGBURF6KRDYSLJFNTDRQl6KULCTEE/SRYS4\]](#)

This must not include individual named evidence.


Cost: £150.00 for 1 ½ hours

If you have any queries, please email: cognitionandlearningteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk

 Cognition and Learning Team - SEND Specialist Advice and Support



SLCN Training Opportunities

Please see flyers for further details. All training is delivered via Teams and available to all school staff:

 Hertfordshire


Hertfordshire Speech, Language and Communication Needs Training

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

 **Free Training For Secondary School Staff** 

This training is 1 ½ hours long and will be delivered online via MS Teams. Please book spaces using the email below.

SLCN and SEMH - Secondary




Wednesday 5th March 2025
9:30 – 11:00 via MS Teams

To book please send delegate name, setting and email address to SLCNTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk

This training will:



- Unpick the crossover between SLCN and SEMH
- Explore how unmet language and learning needs can present as emotional / behavioural difficulties.
- Help teachers and teaching assistants see beyond the presenting need to support the underlying unmet needs of the child or young person.

SLCNTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk

 Hertfordshire

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.

SLCN in the Primary Classroom

Wednesday 5th February 2025
9:30 – 11:30 via MS Teams

To book please email delegate name, setting and email to SLCNTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk

SLCN in the Secondary Classroom

Wednesday 26th February 2025
9:30 – 11:30 via MS Teams

To book please email delegate name, setting and email to SLCNTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk

This training will:

- Unpick the role that language plays in learning
- Enable staff to identify barriers for CYPs around language and learning.
- Demonstrate evidence-based ways teachers can support learners with SLCN
- Develop teachers' practice and competencies so they can enable learners to access language in the classroom

Please note these training sessions are not suitable for Early Years settings.

SLCNTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Children & Young Peoples Speech & Language Therapy
Service



Training available to book Spring Term 2025

Face to face

Virtual

**Selective Mutism
Small Steps
programme**

**Using Language
for Thinking**

**Supporting
Bilingual children
in school**

**Intro to Colourful
Semantics**

**Storytelling - a
Narrative
approach**

**Social
Communication
in the Early Years**

**Social
Communication
for school aged
children**

**Vocabulary
development in
Primary school**

**Developmental
Language
Disorder (DLD)**

**Talking with
Children**

**Making
language visible**

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://www.hct.nhs.uk/-children-and-young-people-speech-and-language-therapy-training)
 to find out more information and to book on.

Introducing SLT Training Webinars

<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/-children-and-young-people-speech-and-language-therapy-training>

Supporting
speech sound
development

Short webinar to enable you to learn how you can help children to develop their speech within routine and play activities

Duration -30 mins

Supporting
vocabulary
development in
secondary schools

This webinar will teach you about different types of vocabulary support and develop your understanding of strategies to use with all students

Duration 35 mins

Glue ear

Learn what glue ear is, how it can impact children and their speech and when a SLT referral maybe appropriate

Duration 8 mins

Understanding
SLCN

Increase your confidence in using strategies to support children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs at home and in the classroom

Duration 17 mins

Please scan the QR code to
find out more information and
access webinars

Hertfordshire Shining Communication Award Children & Young People's (CYP) Speech & Language Therapy Service

Innovative

Caring

Agile

Telephone:
01823 470680 Option 3

Email address:
hct.cyptherapies1@nhs.net

What is the Hertfordshire Shining Communication Award (HSCA)?

HSCA is a tool for schools to use to support and improve the outcomes for those children presenting with speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN). The aim of the tool is to support settings to identify their strengths and areas of development in terms of the support provided for children with SLCN.

How does the HSCA work?

- There are 8 'rays' of the HSCA: families, quality, leadership, intervention, identification, environment, training, knowledge.
- Schools will need to demonstrate that they are at least 'developing' across all 8 of the 'rays'. This will be done through a combination of discussions, observations, and evidence such as completed training records.
- Each school will need to identify 1-2 'Communication Champions' to lead on this award.
- The Speech and Language Therapy Team will provide the following support to help schools achieve the award:
 - 1 virtual training session to provide further information about the tool and get you started
 - An initial virtual meeting with schools to identify their areas of strength and areas for development and set targets
 - A minimum of 2 face to face visits to the school to complete observations
 - Further meetings as required to review progress and update targets
- Once settings have demonstrated that they have met the minimum criteria for each of the rays, the Herts Shining Communication Award will be presented to the setting. We recommend that schools work towards achieving their award within 1 year of attending their initial training session.
- Each school's HSCA status will be reviewed annually to ensure that the high standards are continuing to be met.

How to get involved?

Please contact your local Speech and Language Therapy Education Lead to express an interest in starting your award or have any questions.

healthier communities
through outstanding services



www.hct.nhs.uk

Testimonial:

Thank you for the opportunity to do the HSCA and up skill staff at a whole school level to make the difference for all children. SLCN is our biggest need in school, and we have learnt so much on this journey with you supporting us to showcase just how great we already were and how great we now are. Thank you to you and your other Education Lead colleagues for all your advice, training, and communication. I hope other schools get this opportunity. It is so worth it!! 😊 We are proud owners of the sunshine logo!



'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

(For professionals) Tuesday 14 January 11am – 12pm [Join the meeting](#)

(For professionals) Thursday 16 January 2pm - 3pm [Join the meeting](#)

(for professionals AND parent carers) Tuesday 14 January 8pm - 9pm [Register to join this webinar](#)

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