



Delivering Special  
Provision Locally



## DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 9

29.01.25



Spring Term DSPL 9 SENCo Forum/HFL SEND Briefing

Date: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Time: 1-4pm

**NEW VENUE: Westfield Academy, Tolpits Ln, London, Watford WD18 6NS**

Please be reminded that by signing up you are agreeing to attend both the HFL SEND briefing and the DSPL 9 SENCo updates. The event will run from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. We kindly ask that if you are unable to commit to attending for the full duration, please refrain from booking. This ensures that all participants can fully enjoy and engage in the event.

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/1502449>

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



**Children's Mental Health Week**

Children's Mental Health Week 2025 will take place from 3-9 February 2025. The theme for 2025 is focus is Know Yourself, Grow Yourself, with the aim to equip and empower children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them.

To access resources please use the link below:

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

Please keep an eye out on social media for further information and links.

## DSPL 9 SENCo Surgeries: February 2025

Myself and Mandy Brandon will be available on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February from 8-8.30am to answer any questions of queries that you may have. Please use the links below to access these opportunities:

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

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

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 342 329 400 174

Passcode: UGV25m

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February

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

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 325 139 318 089

Passcode: NpBG42



### 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.

Solution Circle Date	Deadline for referral	Focus
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	27.01.25	Secondary SEMH Focus
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	03.03.25	Primary SEMH Focus
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	24.03.25	Secondary SEMH Focus
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	05.05.25	Secondary Focus
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	08.05.25	Primary SEMH Focus
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	09.06.25	Primary SEMH Focus
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	30.06.25	Secondary SEMH Focus

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



### My Feelings and Me

At the beginning of the autumn term, and as part of the DSPL 9 EBSA support relaunch, those who attended were provided with training and access to the Nessie My Feelings and Me intervention programme. Many schools are now using this tool as part of their initial support around EBSA with positive outcomes.

Those schools who have access to this are reminded that part of the tool allows you to track progress and show impact. Currently although many schools are using the intervention, they are not using it to track progress.

If you feel that support from a member of the Nessie team would enable you to ensure you are getting the most out of the tool please contact Luke Simonds on [lsimonds@nessieined.com](mailto:lsimonds@nessieined.com)



### **EBSNA Framework**

Please be reminded that the EBSNA Framework is currently available to all schools across DSPL 9 as a tool to support schools with the early identification of EBSNA and be used as an exploratory tool alongside CYP and parents.

The document is attached to the email and I would urge you to have a look through it and consider how it can be used in your school.

If over the last month, you have accessed the framework and used it to support your CYP and parents in considering early intervention to support EBSNA please can I ask that you spend a few minutes completing the attached google form. Your feedback will enable any further adaptations to be made prior to it being shared across Hertfordshire in the summer term:

<https://forms.gle/spbiyd84yBSYohev7>

The deadline for providing feedback via the google form is February half term.



### **EHCP Audits using Invision 360**

We have a few spaces left for SENCOs to attend the next EHCP audit session in February.

Monday 3rd February 2025

1.00-2.30pm

Venue: The Green Room, Bournehall Primary School.

The first session delivered earlier this month was attended by 12 local SENCOs across EYs, primary and secondary and enabled a wide range of discussions around the contents of EHCPs to take place through the auditing process.

If you would like to attend the next session, please use the link below to book your space:

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/1489525>



### **News for Inclusion**

Please see the attached update for information around additional SRPs:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/news-archive/council-leaders-decide-to-expand-support-for-pupils-in-mainstream-primary-schools-in-hertfordshire>



The Hertfordshire SEND Academy was created in 2024 to facilitate high quality multi-agency learning and development opportunities to individuals, services and organisations within the Hertfordshire SEND Workforce so that they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to achieve the vision of the SEND Strategy:

In Hertfordshire we want all CYP with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to be included and valued, so that they can live happy and fulfilling lives. **We will have services that will make a difference to families because they are joined up, inclusive, easy to access, close to home and adapt to meet individual's needs.** Hertfordshire will be a county where we're proud to say that SEND is everybody's business.

A key element to support us achieving this, was to create a shared platform where all the members of the Hertfordshire SEND Workforce could access learning opportunities and the most up to date resources.

**We are therefore delighted to announce the launch of the**

[Hertfordshire SEND Academy Website](#)

(click to access)

The website currently consists of 2 parts, and we are keen to evolve this to meet the needs of our whole SEND Workforce in Hertfordshire, so please forward your suggestions to [sendacademy@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sendacademy@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

### Members Area

This is an area that is accessed by clicking on the **'Log in to the members area'**

Option on the front page and using the Username and Password below. To confirm these are generic login details which can be shared with those who are part of our SEND Workforce in Hertfordshire:

**Username:** SENDAcademy

**Password:** Herts321

In this area are a variety of resources including:

- Recordings of recent sessions on Annual Reviews, Tribunal Appeals and Education Advice
- Recordings of sessions from the SEND Festival of Practice including 'What happens if instead of a therapeutic classroom we had a therapeutic school?'
- EHCP Good Standards

### Training and Events

This is an area that is accessed via the front page of the website and curates learning opportunities delivered by the SEND Academy, as well as signposting you to other local and national opportunities. By using the category function on the left hand side you can find sessions that are aimed at your part of the SEND Workforce. Sessions currently available include:

- Consultations Training for Schools and Education Settings
- Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) from the Earliest Years
- Placements and Funding Process
- The SEND Code of Practice, Working with Settings and Graduated Approach
- Person-Centred Working and 'This is Me'
- SMART Outcomes & Section E of an Education, Health, and Care Plan
- Specified and Quantified provision & Section F of an Education, Health, and Care Plan
- Accessibility

Please forward your suggestions to [sendacademy@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sendacademy@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

# HERTFORDSHIRE BEE YOU



## Understanding my Autism and ADHD

A new virtual service, jointly commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS, supporting autistic/ADHD children & young people.

Offering tailored support for autistic/ADHD children & young people aged from 7-16 years on a range of weekly topics.

All sessions will be held online.



FREE ONLINE SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO YOU!

Family and Health Services Commissioning



Understanding my Autism and ADHD (delivered by Autism Oxford) is a free virtual service designed to support children and young people aged 7-16 in Hertfordshire who may be autistic or ADHD as well as those with a confirmed diagnosis.

There are places available on the following 10 week courses:

Weekly sessions for children aged 11-16 on Thursdays 7pm-8pm running 6th February – 10th April

Weekly sessions for children aged 7-10 on Mondays 4pm-5pm running from 3rd February – 7th April.

Please see the attached flyers for all details.



## Virtual School Education Conference:



# Positive Regard

## Relationships Make a Difference

**Date & Time:** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 9:30am – 3:15pm

**Venue:** In-person at the Hertfordshire Development Centre |  
Streamed online via MS Teams

See flyer for booking details.



North Hertfordshire College is pleased to announce our open afternoon at **Springboard Watford** which will be held on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 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](mailto: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 [MKucper@nhc.ac.uk](mailto:MKucper@nhc.ac.uk) 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.**

We look forward to meeting you at our open event.



