DSPL6

Delivering Special Provision Locally

NEWSLETTER

FOR PROFESSIONALS
AUTUMN (1) 2026



News & updates

Early Years SEND Team: New ways of working

Please click here to find information from ***Lara Windsor, County Lead for Early Years SEND***, about the new HCC Early Years Team way of working.

DSPL5 & DSPL6 Conference: Belonging and Well-being

Thank you!

Thank you for joining our conference this term, we hope you had an inspiring day and enjoyed catching up with colleagues.

Resources from the day have been shared with everyone who signed in on arrival.



2026–27 KEY DATES



HfL County SEND Briefings
In person, 9.30am – 11.30am

Autumn 2026: 19th November 2026
Spring 2027: 10th March 2027
Summer 2027: 24th June 2027

Cranborne Primary School Laurel Fields, Potters Bar, EN6 2BA

DSPL6 Delivering Special Provision Locally

Local SENCO Meetings – In person, 9.30am – 11.00am

Tuesday 29th Sept 2026	Cowley Hill Primary School	*Before the Borehamwood FIF Cluster at 11.00am*
Thursday 26th Nov 2026	Cranborne Primary School	*Before the Potters Bar FIF Cluster at 11.00am*
Tuesday 19th January 2027	Cowley Hill Primary School	*Before the Borehamwood FIF Cluster at 11.00am*
Thursday 4th March 2027	Cranborne Primary School	*Before the Potters Bar FIF Cluster at 11.00am*

TA Academy
Online, 1.30pm – 3pm *(see flyer for booking links)*

13th October: Demand Avoidance **18th November:** Reintegration to the classroom	**20th January:** Executive Functioning **10th March:** Engaging non-verbal learners	**21st April:** Sensory Circuits **Date TBC:** Fostering independence

Focused Intervention Funding: Cluster meetings and panel dates 2026–27

BOREHAMWOOD	Tuesday 29th September 2026	Monday 5th October 2026
POTTERS BAR	Thursday 1st October 2026	
BOREHAMWOOD	Wednesday 25th November 2026	Tuesday 1st December 2026
POTTERS BAR	Thursday 26th November 2026	
BOREHAMWOOD	Tuesday 19th January 2027	Monday 1st February 2027
POTTERS BAR	Thursday 21st January 2027	
BOREHAMWOOD	Tuesday 2nd March 2027	Monday 8th March 2027
POTTERS BAR	Thursday 4th March 2027	

DSPL6 Delivering Special Provision Locally

Training & events in our area...



For professionals

DSPL5 TA ACADEMY

TA Academy Training Offer 26/27

All training sessions will be online
1.30pm - 3pm

AUTUMN TERM 2026

~~Tuesday 13th October - Demand Avoidance~~

Wednesday 18th November - Reintegration to the classroom

BOOK NOW

BOOK NOW

SPRING TERM 2027

Wednesday 20th January - Executive Functioning Skills

Wednesday 10th March - Engaging non-verbal learners

BOOK NOW

BOOK NOW

SUMMER TERM 2027

Wednesday 21st April - Sensory Circuits

Summer 2 TBC - Fostering Independence

BOOK NOW

BOOK NOW

Hertfordshire virtualschool
LEARN · ACHIEVE · SUCCEED

THE EDUCATION HUB

Promoting the education of children with a social worker



SUPPORTING CONCERNS AROUND:

Education & Attainment
Attendance
Transition
SEND & EHCPs
Risk of exclusion
Health
SEMH

An information and advice service for Social Care and Education colleagues for students known to Children's Services on CP/CiN plans age 0-18.

Contact us:
education.hub@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

FREE

MHFA England

1 day Champion course designed specifically for school professionals working with 8 to 18 year olds.

You will learn:

- An understanding of common mental health issues and how they can affect young people
- The ability to spot the signs of mental ill health in young people, and guide them to a place of support
- Knowledge and confidence to advocate for mental health awareness
- Skills to support positive wellbeing

~~**Friday 12 June 2026** 9.30am to 4pm~~	~~Hertfordshire County Council, Robertson House, Stevenage, SG1 2FQ~~	~~School Professionals~~	~~Parking available on site~~
~~**Friday 10 July 2026** 9.30am to 4pm~~	~~Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER~~	~~School Professionals~~	~~Parking available on site~~
Friday 13 Nov 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Peartree Spring Primary School, Stevenage, SG2 9GG	**Parents/Carers**	Parking available on roads near venue
Friday 15 Jan 2027 9.30am to 4pm	Springmead Primary School, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 2HB	School Professionals	Parking available on roads near the venue
Thurs 21st Jan 2027 9.30am to 4pm	The Hub, Fleetville Junior School, St Albans, AL1 ALW	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Friday 12 Mar 2027 9.30am to 4pm	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER	**Parents/Carers**	Parking available on site

2 day First Aider course suitable for everyone who teaches, works, lives with or cares for 8 to 18 year olds.

You will learn:

- An in depth understanding of young people's mental health and factors that affect wellbeing
- Practical skills to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues
- Confidence to reassure and support a young person in distress
- Enhanced interpersonal skills, such as non judgemental listening
- Knowledge to help a young person recover their health by guiding them to further support
- How to engage with parents, carers and external agencies
- How to support a young person with a long term mental health illness to thrive
- Tools to look after your own wellbeing

Thursday 26 & Friday 27 Nov 2026 9.30am to 4pm	Hobbs Hill Wood Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8ER	School Professionals	Parking available on site
Thursday 4 & Friday 5 Feb 2027 9.30am to 4pm FULL	Peartree Spring Primary School, Stevenage, SG2 9GG	School Professionals	Parking available on roads near venue

To book your place please email schoolsmh@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Places are limited to two representatives per education setting

Introduction to Mental Health Leads Training
for new MHLs/Deputy MHLs

This training is provided by Hertfordshire County Council and is free for all education settings in Hertfordshire. The training is designed to give an overview of information and services to support your role as a school/college Mental Health Lead. Suitable for MHLs and Deputy MHLs who have had no formal training or are new to their role.

Topics include

- Staff wellbeing
- What is emotional wellbeing and mental health in children and young people
- What are the roles and responsibilities of a mental health lead in education
- Introduction to the Department for Education ***Whole School/College Approach (WSCA) to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing***
- How to create or further develop your own WSCA action plan
- An overview of Children & Young Peoples Mental Health Services in Hertfordshire and how to access them
- Practical examples and sharing of good practice

Robertson House in person **9:30am to 3:30pm**	~~Tuesday 30th June 2026~~	~~Wednesday 30th September 2026~~	~~Thursday 8th October 2026~~	Tuesday 10th November 2026	Monday 25th January 2027
	Friday 26th February 2027	Wednesday 17th March 2027	Wednesday 21st April 2027	Wednesday 26th May 2027	Monday 14th June 2027

Mental Health Leads Refresher Training

This training is provided by Hertfordshire County Council and is free for all education settings in Hertfordshire. The training is designed to give an overview of information and services to support your role as a school/college Mental Health Lead. Suitable for MHLs and Deputy MHLs who have had not accessed any training in the last two years.

Topics include

- Staff wellbeing
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health in children and young people
- Recap of the Department for Education ***Whole School/College Approach (WSCA) to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing***
- Overview of Hertfordshire's Emotional Mental Wellbeing in Schools Mark
- An overview of Children & Young Peoples Mental Health Services in Hertfordshire and how to access them
- Practical examples and sharing of good practice

Online 9:15am-12:15pm	~~Wednesday 24th June 2026~~	Wednesday 25November 2026	Wednesday 20th January 2027	Tuesday 4th May 2027	Tuesday 22nd June 2027
Online 12:15pm-3:15pm	Tuesday 22nd September 2026	Tuesday 9th February 2027	Monday 8th March 2027	Monday 19th April 2027	

Places are limited to two representatives per education setting

To book your place please email schoolsmh@hertfordshire.gov.uk. **If you cannot attend the available dates, please contact us to be added to waiting lists for full sessions.**

Mental Health Leads Training Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire



Whizzy's Words-2

Phase 2 Phonics Intervention

Training delivered by experienced Cognition and Learning Specialist Advisory Teachers
For SENCOs & Teaching Assistants





Whizzy's Words-2 is a one-to-one early phonics intervention(3x 20 mins) for pupils who:

- are struggling to learn Phase 2 sounds and are not yet blending or segmenting sounds in consonant-vowel-consonant words.
- have made very limited progress despite implementation of individual catch-up using the school's own systematic synthetic phonics programme.

This training will:

- Share how to accurately assess pupils' needs and identify gaps in phonic knowledge
- Show how to identify appropriate targets for intervention
- Model how to deliver this multisensory, cumulative, highly structured intervention
- Provide opportunities to practise elements of the intervention with colleagues

Following training all attendees will receive a comprehensive set of electronic resources to aid successful delivery of this intervention back in school.

Free Event

To book a place on this training, please seeoverleaf:

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

Forward with Phonics

Training delivered by the Specialist Advisory Teachers for Cognition and Learning for SENCos & Teaching Assistants

Forward with Phonics is our Phase 3 to 5 phonics intervention for children from Year 2 upwards who have not made progress despite catch up using the school's systematic synthetic phonics programme. The step-by-step lesson plan can also be used with resources from the school's programme. This is one of the interventions recommended on our recent well received Persistent Literacy Difficulties course.

It is a highly structured intervention (one to one or very small group) which makes explicit the vital link between oral blending and segmenting and word reading and spelling.

It uses a hands on approach, super high levels of modelling and fun visual resources to engage children and secure progress.



The practical training session will provide clear modelling of how to carry out the assessment and deliver the intervention effectively.

A comprehensive set of resources will be emailed to delegates after training so that you will have everything you need to get started.

Free Event

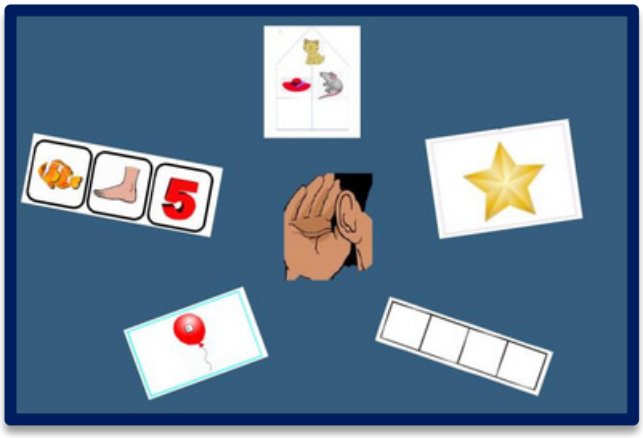
For booking instructions, see overleaf.

Recent feedback from delegates

Engaging, informative, lots of resources.

Very useful strategies that can be applied in our setting.

Phonological Awareness Training



For SENCOs, Class teachers and TAs

2 hr course

*Phonological awareness is a **key foundation for phonics and early reading success**. Strengthening this skill supports all pupils to decode, spell, and become confident readers and writers!*

- **Learn more about what phonological awareness is -** and why it is **so crucial** fordevelopingsecurephonicknowledgeforreading and spelling
- **Consider why phonological awareness may not develop** insomepupils
- **Know how to use an assessment resource to help you identify and target phonological awareness needs in your setting**
- **Become confident in teaching phonological awareness** to improve outcomes for your pupils

A full set of resources to assist you in assessing and supporting phonological awareness will be sent to you electronically after attending the course

Free Event

Any queries, please email: ***CognitionandLearningTeam@hertfordshire.gov.uk***

Booking information see overleaf

SEND Specialist Advice and Support - Cognition and Learning Team

Hertfordshire

PhonologicalAwareness

Training DatesAutumn 2026

Date	Venue	Other Information
12.11.26 9.30am- 11.30am	**Morgans Primary School** Morgans Road Hertford Herts SG13 8DR	No parking on site. Please Park on the roads surrounding the school from 9.10am onwards. Please sign in at the School Reception
To book at Morgans: PhonologicalAwareness Morgans | Hertfordshire County Council		
17.11.2026 9.30am- 11.30am	**Ashwell Primary** Silver Street Ashwell Herts SG7 5QL	No parking on site. Please Park on the roads surrounding the school after 9.10am. Enter via the main school gate and sign in at the School Reception
To book at Ashwell: PhonologicalAwarenessAshwell | Hertfordshire County Council		
18.11.2026 9.30am- 11.30am	**Fleetville School (The Hub)** 288 HatfieldRoad St. Albans Herts. AL1 4LW	No parking on the school site unless you have access requirements. Please park in Morrisons car park nearby.
To book at Fleetville: PhonologicalAwarenessFleetville | Hertfordshire County Council		
19.11.2026 9.30am- 11.30am	**Bournehall Primary (Green Room Hub)** BournehallAvenue Bushey Herts. WD23 3AX	No parking on the school site, park in layby outside. Buzz the main car park gate for access to main reception desk.
To book at Bournehall: Phonological Awareness Bournehall | Hertfordshire County Council		

Early YearsTherapeutic Approaches to behaviour 2026 - 2027

TAB is thelocalauthority's preferred strategy to supporting Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviourforchildren in the Early Years (0-5years). The approach forms part of the authority'sEmotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Strategy and is underpinned by therapeuticapproaches to behaviour management. The key principle of this training is to take anattachment and trauma approach in support our Early Years children who might haveexperienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

TAB exploresaspecific area of practice (Early Years Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour)offering evidence-informed strategies, reflective opportunities and practical approachesthat can be easily implemented within everyday interactions with Early Years children.The aim is to strengthen practitioners' ability to create nurturing environments,support children's social and emotional development and responding effectively toEmotional Wellbeing and Behavioural needs in the Early Years.

Lite Bites

The Early Years Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Lite Bites sessions have been designed to provide accessible, practical support for Early Years practitioners. These concise learning opportunities focus on key themes commonly experienced within Early Years settings, helping practitioners to develop their understanding, confidence and skills in promoting positive emotional wellbeing and behaviours in the Early Years environment.

Please click here to download the full programme for 2026-27

Bookings - All bookings for the training can be found on Send Academy | Hertfordshire County Council



Autum term 2026 – Early Years EmotionalWellbeing andBehaviour training offer for Early Yearsproviders.Bookings Send Academy|HertfordshireCounty Council

Hertfordshire Autism Training



Free Training for
Early Career Teachers Only!

This training is whole day and in person at Hertfordshire Development Centre in Stevenage, please register for a space using the link below.

Level 2: Autism in Schools

The aims of the training are:

- To dispel myths and to challenge stereotypes.
- To develop a deeper understanding of Autism.
- To better understand the day-to-day experience of autistic children & young people
- To be equipped with tools to support.

Thursday 12th November 2026
9am –3:30pm

To register for a place please use the link below:

https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-for-ect-level-2-autism-in-schools-ects-only-12th-november-2026

Suitable for those teaching in primary or secondary; in mainstream, Educational Support Centres or special schools

Hertfordshire

AutismTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk

SLCA Speech, Language, Communication & Autism

Hertfordshire Autism Training

We are offering a day of 'catch up' Level 2 HAT training
Tuesday 10th November
9am – 3:30pm



For new staff in your School only!

This will be appropriate for any new members of staff in schools who have previously had whole school HAT training, to ensure all staff, have the knowledge and skills to support autistic children and young people.

This training is whole day and in person at Hertfordshire Development Centre in Stevenage, please register for a space using the link below.

Level 2: Autism in Schools

The aims of the training are:

- To dispel myths and to challenge stereotypes.
- To develop a deeper understanding of Autism.
- To better understand the day-to-day experience of autistic children.
- To be equipped with tools to support.

Suitable for those working in primary or secondary in mainstream, Educational Support Centres or Special School who are **new to working in a school which has previously had whole school delivery of Level 2 HAT Autism in Schools Training**.

To register for a place please use the link below:

https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-level-2-catch-up-training-10th-november-2026

AutismTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Hertfordshire Autism Training

Level 3: Autism 'Lite Bites'



Wednesday 4th November 2026

- Each session lasts 30 minutes.
- Register by using the links or QR codes provided in this flyer

Intensive Interaction

The aims of the training are:

- What is intensive interaction?
- Who would you use intensive interaction for?
- Why is intensive interaction important?
- What does intensive interaction look like in practice and when would you use it?

Wednesday 4th November 2026 09:15am – 09 :45am

Please register here: https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-lite-bite-intensive-interaction-4th-november-2026-0915am

Anticipation Games & People Games

The aims of the training are:

- What are anticipation games? What are 'People games'?
- Why do we play anticipation and people games?
- Examples of anticipation and people games

Wednesday 4th November 10am to 10:30a m

Please register here: https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-lite-bite-anticipation-games-people-games-4th-november-2026-10am

√

√ **Available to those employed in Hertfordshire mainstream or special schools, or any Hertfordshire Early Years setting.**

√ **Suitable for practitioners working with children of any age, where these interventions are developmentally appropriate**

AutismTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Hertfordshire Autism Training

Click here to find details and booking links for more HAT Workshops in Autumn 2026, including:

- Level 1, 2 and 3 courses
- Autism and Pupil Voice
- Autism and Girls
- Autism, ADHD and emotions
- Autism and Brick Skills
- Social Stories
- Autism and EBNA
- Autism, Puberty and Sexual Vulnerability



Click here for key updates and messages from CYPMHS

INFORMATION AND ADVICE ABOUT
EMOTIONALLY BASED SCHOOL NON-ATTENDANCE (EBSNA)
FOR FAMILIES

EBSNA can affect children and young people of any school age. It can happen as a result of a wide range of different factors –home,widerfamily,community,school, friendships – often a combination of some or all of these.

WHY COULD MY CHILD BE ANXIOUS?

Anxieties can stem from a number of things such as:

- An unmet special educational need such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia or dyspraxia
- Friendship issues, not 'fitting in', or bullying
- Finding schoolwork confusing and overwhelming
- Separation anxiety
- Trauma
- Bereavement
- Low self-esteem
- The environment itself - especially for those who are autistic and/or neurodivergent

A child might become anxious about school at any stage. It can occur when children start school or transition into secondary school, or it might be related to puberty or hormonal changes. Read more on the **Local Offer website.**

WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS

- Can you spot patterns in your child's absence from school, e.g. certain days/activities?
- Does your child regularly say they don't want to go to school, or reluctant/delaying going to school?
- Does your child struggle with changes to environment, routine or stimulus?
- Are there physical symptoms on school days e.g. tummy aches, feeling sick, headaches?

(NB please always check with a GP to rule out any medical cause or illness).



WHAT TO DO

- Ask for a meeting with your child's school involving someone who knows your child e.g. class teacher, pastoral lead, SENCo. Be prepared by taking along any notes about the things your child finds difficult.
- Work together with school to build a child centred plan that understands the underlying problems which are making your child feel anxious about going to school. This could include adjustments to help your child access their education. There are tools which can help such as ~~**Hertfordshire's EBSNA Framework**~~.
- Include your child's voice in any plan as they are more likely to be able to stick to it. Check in after a while and review it with your school to see what is working well and what is not.
- Do advocate for your child's needs but also understand the limitations as to what your school might be able to do.
- If the agreed strategies are not working, speak again with your school to identify other services and professionals that might be able to support your child. The **Herts Hub** has a wealth of mental health signposting and ideas for early help.

REMEMBER...

- With the right plan in place, being in school supports your child's academic progress, social development and mental wellbeing.
- Small steps are often big wins.
- **....also ensure that you find ways to support your own wellbeing in the process.**

STRATEGIES TO TRY AT HOME

- Develop a plan for the evenings, which can include calming activities before bedtime e.g. gentle music, bath, story or reading.
- Also plan for the morning, and where possible get things ready for the next day the night before (school bag, lunch box etc).
- Make a diary which includes your child's worries and also identifies positives and what works well.
- Respond with empathy whilst encouraging small, manageable steps.
- Visual timetables at home and school might also help.

HH LDN Herts Mental Health, Learning Disability and Neurodiversity Health and Care Partnership

Hertfordshire



Are you looking for local activities and SEND services for a child or young person with SEND?

The SEND community activities directory promotes a wide range of local activities and support groups. Some activities will also include discounts for families registered with a Herts Card (SEND).

We will be adding additional activities on a regular basis.
Find fun, inclusive activities your child will love – all in one place!
Explore the SEND community directory

If there are any activities you know of or wish to see promoted through this directory, please email us on:
SENDcommissioning@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Courses for Mainstream School Staff that work alongside Children that have a Vision Impairment

Upcoming VI Workshops:

Date	Course Name	Location	Room	Times	Contensis Signup Link
Wednesday 7th October	Resource Modification and Access	Robertson House, Stevenage	RH1.12	9.15am-2pm	https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/resource-modification-and-access-for-children-and-young-people-with-vision-impairment-master-copy-5
Wednesday 21st October	Advanced Drawing	Farnham House, Stevenage	FH2.14	9.15am-2.30pm	https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/advanced-drawing-using-microsoft-office-for-cyp-with-vi-master-copy-1
Wednesday 25th November	Resource M odificati on and Access	Apsley	Conference Room 5	9.15am-2pm	https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/resource-modification-and-access-for-children-and-young-people-with-vision-impairment-master-copy-6
Wednesday 2nd December	Resource M odificati on and Access	Farnham House, Stevenage	FH0.03	9.15am-2pm	https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/resource-modification-and-access-for-children-and-young-people-with-vision-impairment-master-copy-7

Upcoming Effective Access (Initial VI Training):

Date	Course Name	Location	Room	Times	Contensis Signup Link
Tuesday 12th January 2027	Effective Access for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment	Farnham House, Stevenage	FH 0.04 (20 capacity)	9.15am-4pm	https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/effective-access-for-children-and-young-people-with-vision-impairment-master-copy-6
Thursday 21st January 2027	Effective Access for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment	Apsley	Conference Room 05 (15 capacity)	9.15am-4pm	https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/effective-access-for-children-and-young-people-with-vision-impairment-master-copy-7

VI Workshop Objectives:

Effective Access:

For Teaching Assistants, Learning Support Assistants, Class Teachers, Subject Teachers and SENCos.

Workshop objectives:

- Understand the impact of vision impairment upon learning and development.
- Become equipped with strategies and techniques to support access for children and young people with vision impairment.
- Understand the specific strategies and techniques which may benefit the children and young people with vision impairment you are working with.

Resource Modification and Access:

For Staff supporting children and young people with vision impairment who require modified print or Braille

By the end of this workshop, participants will have had opportunities to:

- Develop practical skills in creating Accessible documents using Microsoft Word.
- Explore creative ways to produce accessible diagrams using Microsoft Office.
- Gain confidence in adapting materials to ensure children can access learning effectively and independently.
- Identify and problem-solving concerns raised by workshop members

Advanced Drawing

Applicants need to have attended the Resource Modification and Access Course to take part in this course.

Workshop objectives:

- How to represent 2D tactile and large print diagrams using Microsoft Office applications.
- To understand the concept of layering a diagram.
- Opportunities to create accessible diagrams using Microsoft Applications.
- Identify and problem-solving concerns raised by attendees.

Please bring a laptop with Windows and Word Programme 2010 or above. Please also bring a plug-in mouse as this will be needed for the drawing exercises.