

# DSPL4 NEWSLETTER

## DSPL4 CONFERENCE

DSPL4 Conference 15.01.2026 at Fanhams Hall,  
We look forward to seeing you there!!  
Arrival time 8.40-8.50am  
Finish time 3.30pm

## SEND PROVISION

SENCo SEND Provision Briefings:

- [Thursday 12th February 2026 16:00-16:45](#)
- [Wednesday 25th February 2026 16:00-16:45](#)

These sessions will provide a clear overview of the work underway to shape our new SEND Provision Strategy, focusing on strengthening local SEND provision and our shared mission with mainstream schools to lead meaningful change.

## WEBSITE



## SSR LINK

As mentioned in the last newsletter, for Middleton Outreach support please use the SSR form found [here on the grid](#).

## SEND NEWS

Read about the latest SEND NEWS in Herts...

[View SEND NEWS!](#)

And Nationally...

[Local Gov Association](#)

## TRANSITION

Ask Sali have planned a couple of KS2/3 transition coffee mornings for yr4/5/6 parents of SEND children to ease their concerns over transition to secondary.  
26<sup>th</sup> January 9-10.30am Brooklands Junior  
20th April, 9:-10:30am, High Leigh .

## DSPL4 CONTACTS

Adrienne and Laura - DSPL4 Manager - [dspl4manager@wormleyprimary.co.uk](mailto:dspl4manager@wormleyprimary.co.uk)  
Lisa- DSPL4 SEND Lead - [llee@wormleyprimary.co.uk](mailto:llee@wormleyprimary.co.uk)  
Sandra - DSPL4 Post 16 Transition Coordinator - [smahoneyl@hrc.ac.uk](mailto:smahoneyl@hrc.ac.uk)

# DSPL4 NEWSLETTER

## HERTS SEND TRAINING

New SEND Training page on the Grid, that collates information on training opportunities and how to keep up to date.

SENCO Briefings are now fully funded for Hertfordshire maintained schools and academies as part of our contract with HFL. You can book your place through DSPL Managers or visit HFL Education Hub Shop if you are not a maintained school or academy.

SEND Academy Training for next half term will focus on Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment request. Further information on the SEND Academy Website (login: SENDAcademy; password: Herts321)

## S&L

New Training for Speech and Language have been added and the flyers are attached.

Contact Kayleigh Clayton - [kayleigh.clayton1@nhs.net](mailto:kayleigh.clayton1@nhs.net) for any further information or queries.

## LHNF

Next term will be the last time to be able to claim for LHNF before the change to a new funding system in April named Focus Intervention Funding. We have A LOT of money left in our budget which has to be spent by March. Please get your applications in if you have any children with needs at targeted plus or above where you have targeted plus level support or above in place and support provided in school for this. Please refer to the guidance for this on our website

## HERTS CONTACTS

Laura Tolley- SEND Panel Manager - [Laura.Tolley@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Tolley@hertfordshire.gov.uk)  
Katy Alexander -VSEND & SENDIAGO [Katy.Alexander@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Katy.Alexander@hertfordshire.gov.uk)  
Sally Glossop - County Lead for Graduated Response and Statutory Assessment - [Sally.Glossop@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.Glossop@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

# DSPL4 NEWSLETTER

## MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Lead Introduction  
21.01.26 (face2face in Stevenage)  
03.03.26 (online)

Mental Health Lead Refresher Training  
12.01.26 (online)  
24.03.26 (online)

To book your place please email  
schools<sup>mh</sup>@hertfordshire.gov.uk

## SIM

DSPL4 commissions work from Strength in Mind to offer a range of therapeutic interventions. Please visit our [DSPL4 website](#) for more information and the referral form.

## TA TRAINING

28.01.26 Cognition and Learning support in the classroom 1.30-3pm

[Please sign up here](#)

See flyer attached!

## EMWIE

Please see the latest EMWIE newsletter December 2025, which you can access here: [Emotional & Mental Wellbeing in Education - Dec 2025](#)

## CYPMHS NEWS

Welcome to the [December edition of Hertfordshire's CYPMHS newsletter](#), for professionals working with the county's children and young people.

## SERVICE DIRECTORIES

[Speech, language and communication](#)  
[Neurodiversity](#)  
[Mental health and wellbeing](#)  
[Learning difficulties and disabilities](#)  
[Deafness and sight loss](#)  
[Physical needs](#)  
[Behaviours that challenge](#)

## DSPL4 LINK CONTACTS

DSPL4 Speech and Language - Kayleigh Clayton - [kayleigh.clayton1@nhs.net](mailto:kayleigh.clayton1@nhs.net)  
DSPL4 EY SEND Lead Teacher Katie Dean - [Katie.Dean@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Katie.Dean@hertfordshire.gov.uk)  
DSPL4 Send Implementation Support Officer (SISO) - Lily Crane  
[Lily.Crane@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lily.Crane@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

# DSPL4

# DATES

## SENCO

DSPL4 Conference 15.01.26  
Fanhams Hall [Click here to book](#)

Senco Forum 12.02.26 1-3pm

HfL Senco Briefing 12.03.26 1.30-3.30

## <sup>e</sup> GRADUATED APPROACH

Graduated Approach  
17.12.26 09:30-11:30 Teams  
Please book your space via  
[the website.](#)

## BEHAVIOUR SURGERIES

Secondary Behaviour Surgery - online

4.12.25 and 18.12.25 8.30-9.30am

Primary Behaviour Surgery - online

10.12.25 8-9am

## MELSA

MELSA Supervision

21.01.26 and 4.03.26  
9-9.45am

## LHNF

LHNF deadline 09.01.26

LHNF Panel 20.01.26 9.30-11am

Settings to attend: Squiggles Preschool,

Monkey Puzzle Day Nursery, Longlands

St Catherine's, Bonneygrove, Broxbourne

Secondary

## MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Leads Network Meeting

EY and Primary.  
11.02.26 1.30-3pm online

Secondary Pastoral Leads Meeting  
04.02.26 4.-5.15pm

## EY CONTACTS

DSPL4 EY Emotional, Wellbeing and Behaviour Specialist - Denise Filer  
Denise.Filer@hertfordshire.gov.uk

DSPL4 EY Inclusion Advisor - Kay Smith Kay.smith@hertfordshire.gov.uk

EY Inclusion Development Officer - Mary -Mary.ONeill@hertfordshire.gov.uk

# Children & Young Peoples Speech & Language Therapy Service



## Face to face training available to book Spring Term 2026

Understanding  
blanks levels  
of questioning

Using the  
WellComm  
toolkit

Colourful  
semantics

Information  
carrying  
words

Don't forget  
to check out  
our  
webinars



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 \(hct.nhs.uk\)](#)  
to find out more information and to book on.



# Children & Young Peoples Speech & Language Therapy Service

## Training available to book for Spring Term 2026 suitable for Early Years staff and settings

Face to face



Virtual



An Introduction to Selective Mutism



Supporting Bilingual CYP



Information carrying words



Talking with Children



Social Communication in the Early Years



Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)



WellComm



Check out our webinars, no need to book



Stammering



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 \(hct.nhs.uk\)](#) to find out more information and to book on.

# Children & Young Peoples Speech & Language Therapy Service

## Virtual Training available to book Spring Term 2026

**Social  
Communication  
in the Early  
Years**

**Social  
Communication  
for school aged  
children**

**Developmental  
Language  
Disorder (DLD) 2-  
part training**

**Talking with  
Children**

**Supporting  
Bilingual children  
in school**

**An Introduction  
to Selective  
Mutism**



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 \(hct.nhs.uk\)](#)  
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 speechsound 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





# 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 (3 x 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.***

**Cost: £60.00 per delegate**

To book a place on this training, please see overleaf.

If you have any queries, please contact: [cognitionandlearningteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cognitionandlearningteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

**Please note: We are unable to accept cancellations once a place has been booked**

# Multisensory Spelling Strategies

*Hertfordshire Cognition and Learning Team*



*This practical training for Primary and Secondary (KS3) settings is aimed at:*

- *Teaching Assistants new to the role*
- *Teaching Assistants who would like a refresher for supporting pupils with spelling difficulties*

During this 2 hour training session we will explore why spelling is difficult for some pupils. The session will provide practical strategies for teaching spellings and ways to support recall back in the classroom. Helpful resources will be made during the session and others will be emailed to all delegates.

## Aims:

- To understand why some learners find spelling difficult
- To differentiate between phonically decodable words and common exception words
- To know how to assess common exception words
- To understand the importance of overlearning and the benefits of using multisensory strategies to teach spelling
- To explore a range of multisensory strategies and games to teach and overlearn spellings
- To have a range of strategies to aid transference of taught spellings into independent writing

Cost: £60.00 per delegate

***Please note: We are unable to accept cancellations once a place has been booked.***

Any queries, please email: [CognitionandLearningTeam@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:CognitionandLearningTeam@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

***Booking information see overleaf***

# Hertfordshire Speech, Language and Communication Needs Training

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

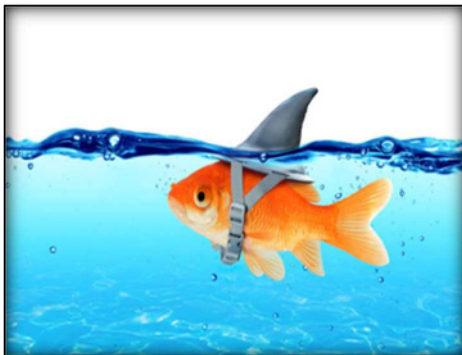


## Free Training For Secondary School Staff



**This training is 2 hours** long and will be delivered online **via MS Teams**.  
Please book spaces using the email **below**.

### SLCN and Behaviour



Thursday, 26th February 2026  
9:30 – 11:30 via MS Teams

To book please send delegate name,  
setting and email address to  
[SLCNTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:SLCNTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

#### This training will:

- Unpick the crossover between SLCN and behaviour, and SLCN and social and emotional difficulties.
- 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.

To book a space please send delegate name, school email address and setting name to [SLCNTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:SLCNTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

# 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

Tuesday, 10th March 2026  
9:30 – 11:30 via MS Teams

To book please email delegate name,  
setting and email to  
[SLCNTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:SLCNTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

### SLCN in the Secondary Classroom

Tuesday, 24th March 2026  
9:30 – 11:30 via MS Teams  
To book please email delegate name,  
setting and email to  
[SLCNTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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.



## **Introduction into Trauma Workshop**

Cost: £125.00

Time: 4:00pm – 5:30pm (1.5 hours)

What is covered?

What is Trauma?

Activity

Big T, Little T

Developmental, Relational and Intergenerational overview

Traumatic Events and Experiences

Physically and Mentally look like

Vagal nerve/internal working model

Impact of trauma and readiness to learn/ability

Relational Interventions/connection before correction

Protect, Relate, Regulate and Reflect model

Strategies to support children in the classroom

PACE

What is covered?

What is PACE (whole child)

Theory

Feelings direct action/emotions

Why use PACE?

Strategies

## **PACE – Follow on workshop**





Delivering Special  
Provision Locally

## **DSPL TA Academy Training Offer 25/26**

**All training sessions are FREE and will be online 1.30pm - 3pm  
Please sign up using the links below**

### **SPRING TERM 2026**

Wednesday 28th January - **Cognition and Learning support in the classroom**  
<https://forms.office.com/e/sKxVqmPDGK>

Wednesday 17th March - **Positive Behaviour Support strategies**  
<https://forms.office.com/e/KxrX58nnUm>

### **SUMMER TERM 2026**

Wednesday 20th May - **Colourful Semantics**  
<https://forms.office.com/e/FFpn5Xdtwa>

Wednesday 17th June - **Trauma and Attachment awareness**  
<https://forms.office.com/e/snYaHBgEn7>

## Autism & Brick Skills

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 09.30 - 11.00**

- To make social groups motivating for pupils with social communication needs.
- To understand why and how to bring structure and visual organisation into social activities.
- To learn how to facilitate a brick skills group.



To book please visit

<https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-autism-and-brick-skills-workshop-25th-november-2025>

## Autism & Girls

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 09.30 - 11.30**

- To increase understanding of different ways in which autism can presents.
- To develop helpful strategies and approaches to support autistic girls (and others with this profile)



To book please visit:

<https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-autism-and-girls-workshop-10th-december-2025>

# Hertfordshire Mental Health Leads Network

## Secondary and Further Education

These termly network meetings are organised jointly between the Emotional and Mental Wellbeing in Education (EMWIE) Team and Public Health for **Mental Health Leads, Deputy Mental Health Leads, and Pastoral Support Staff** in all **Hertfordshire education settings**.

The termly meetings provide key updates on mental health and emotional wellbeing services for children and young people, parents and staff; system updates; relevant Public Health information, and an opportunity to communicate and work together with other education settings in your area.

Meeting	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<b>Dacorum</b>	Tuesday 21 Oct 2025 2pm to 3.15pm <b>Kings Langley School</b>	Tuesday 27 Jan 2026 4pm to 5.15pm <b>Hemel School</b>	Thursday 21 May 2026 4pm to 5.15pm <b>Ashlyns School</b>
<b>East Herts &amp; Broxbourne</b>	Tuesday 7 Oct 2025 4pm to 5.15pm <b>MS Teams</b>	Wednesday 4 Feb 2026 4pm to 5.15pm <b>MS Teams</b>	Tuesday 19 May 2026 4pm to 5.15pm <b>MS Teams</b>
<b>North Herts &amp; Stevenage</b>	Thursday 6 Nov 2025 4pm to 5.15pm <b>MS Teams</b>	Wednesday 11 Mar 2026 4pm to 5.15pm <b>MS Teams</b>	Tuesday 12 May 2026 4pm to 5.15pm <b>MS Teams</b>
<b>Welwyn Hatfield</b>	Thursday 13 Nov 2025 4pm to 5.15pm <b>Links Academy</b>	Thursday 26 Feb 2026 4pm to 5.15pm <b>Links Academy</b>	Thursday 7 May 2026 4pm to 5.15pm <b>Links Academy</b>
<b>South West Pastoral Leads</b>	Thursday 9 Oct 2025 2pm to 4pm <b>West Herts College</b>	Tuesday 3 Feb 2026 2pm to 4pm <b>West Herts College</b>	Wednesday 13 May 2026 2pm to 4pm <b>West Herts College</b>
<b>St Albans</b>	Wednesday 15 Oct 2025 4.15pm to 5.30pm <b>Townsend School</b>	Wednesday 11 Mar 2026 4.15pm to 5.30pm <b>Townsend School</b>	Wednesday 10 June 2026 4.15pm to 5.30pm <b>Townsend School</b>
<b>FE Colleges and UH</b>	Tuesday 30 Sept 2025 10am to 11.15am <b>MS Teams</b>	Tuesday 10 Feb 2026 10am to 11.15am <b>MS Teams</b>	Tuesday 16 June 2026 10am to 11.15am <b>West Herts College</b>

To register your interest in attending these meetings, please email [dee.debruin1@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dee.debruin1@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or [yasmine.fellah@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:yasmine.fellah@hertfordshire.gov.uk) with your school name and DSPL area.



# Hertfordshire Mental Health Leads Network

## Early Years & Primary Schools

These termly network meetings are organised jointly between the Emotional and Mental Wellbeing in Education (EMWIE) Team and Public Health for **Mental Health Leads, Deputy Mental Health Leads, and Pastoral Support Staff** in all Hertfordshire education settings.

The termly meetings provide key updates on mental health and emotional wellbeing services for children and young people, parents and staff; system updates; relevant Public Health information, and an opportunity to communicate and work together with other education settings in your area.

Meeting	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Time & Location
<b>DSPL 1 &amp; 2</b> North Herts & Stevenage	Tuesday 16 Sept 2025	Thursday 22 Jan 2026	Thursday 30 April 2026	<b>1:30pm to 3pm</b> <b>MS Teams</b>
<b>DSPL 3 &amp; 4</b> East Herts & Broxbourne	Tuesday 14 Oct 2025	Wednesday 11 Feb 2026	Thursday 4 June 2026	<b>1:30pm to 3pm</b> <b>MS Teams</b>
<b>DSPL 5 &amp; 6</b> Welwyn Hatfield, Potters Bar, Borehamwood	<b>NEW DATE</b> Tuesday 14 Oct 2025	Wednesday 28 Jan 2026	Thursday 14 May 2026	<b>1:30pm to 3pm</b> <b>MS Teams</b>
<b>DSPL 7 &amp; 8</b> St Albans, Harpenden, Dacorum	Wednesday 5 Nov 2025	Tuesday 10 March 2026	Thursday 11 June 2026	<b>1:30pm to 3pm</b> <b>MS Teams</b>
<b>DSPL 9</b> Watford, Three Rivers, Bushey & Radlett	Tuesday 4 Nov 2025	Tuesday 24 Feb 2026	Tuesday 9 June 2026	<b>9:30am to 11am</b> <b>MS Teams</b>

To register your interest in attending these meetings, please email [dee.debruin1@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dee.debruin1@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or [yasmine.fellah@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:yasmine.fellah@hertfordshire.gov.uk) with your school name and DSPL area.

# Hertfordshire Mental Health Leads Network

## Specialist and Independent settings

These termly network meetings are organised jointly between the Emotional and Mental Wellbeing in Education (EMWIE) Team and Public Health for **Mental Health Leads, Deputy Mental Health Leads, and Pastoral Support Staff** in all Hertfordshire education settings.

The termly meetings provide key updates on mental health and emotional wellbeing services for children and young people, parents and staff; system updates; relevant Public Health information, and an opportunity to communicate and work together with other education settings in your area.

Meeting	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<b>Independent settings</b>	Monday 22 Sept 2025 1pm to 2.30pm <b>MS Teams</b>	Monday 9 Feb 2026 1pm to 2.30pm <b>MS Teams</b>	Monday 11 May 2026 1pm to 2.30pm <b>MS Teams</b>
<b>Specialist settings</b>	Monday 20 Oct 2025 1pm to 2.30pm <b>MS Teams</b>	Monday 23 Mar 2026 1pm to 2.30pm <b>MS Teams</b>	Monday 22 June 2026 1pm to 2.30pm <b>MS Teams</b>

To register your interest in attending these meetings, please email [schoolsmh@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:schoolsmh@hertfordshire.gov.uk) with your school name and DSPL area.



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UK Government

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**SKILLS BOOTCAMPS**

**Early Years**

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[www.step2skills.org.uk/SkillsBootcamps](http://www.step2skills.org.uk/SkillsBootcamps)

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- ✓ Paediatric Emergency First Aid Certificate



HERTFORDSHIRE  
**FUTURES**





# The Electric Umbrella Academy



**Electric Umbrella** has now worked with hundreds of mainstream primary and SEND schools, in person and online, using music to encourage creativity, celebrate difference and explore the power of kindness and joy. Everything we do is co-led by our professional and learning disabled musicians, bringing a unique blend of artistic excellence and lived inclusion.

We want every child, in every school to experience the magic, and so we've launched our [Electric Umbrella Academy](#)

## What is The Electric Umbrella Academy?

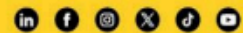
- A **FREE online programme** for all **mainstream primary and SEND schools across the UK**
- Access to high-energy **online, interactive assemblies**
- All the **music resources** needed to enjoy our amazing original songs (each half term is based on a different one)
- Resources with real-life stories, videos, and discussion prompts to explore **the message behind the music**
- **Electric Umbrella accreditation** in celebration of your school's culture of kindness, equity and creativity

## How do schools get involved?

- If you already have a free online School Account with us then just log in and get involved!
- If you haven't yet created a free School Account then do so [HERE](#) to access all the Academy resources, the 2 assemblies for this half term and more School specific materials.
- Come along to the online **welcome assembly on Friday 12th September 10 - 10:30am** and enjoy!

**Any questions about The Academy or any of our other Schools' programmes? Get in touch at [schools@electricumbrella.org.uk](mailto:schools@electricumbrella.org.uk)**

**Electric Umbrella: Where Music Unites People and Creates a More Inclusive Society**



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