



Delivering Special
Provision Locally

DSPL9 Parent, Carer and Family Newsletter

7th October 2026

Welcome to the 3rd^t DSPL9 newsletter for the academic year 2026/27 .

This provides families and school colleagues with current local SEND information with a focus on **Parents and Families**.

This newsletter is published fortnightly during term time. Next edition- **21st October 2026**

DSPL9 support

- DSPL9 EBSA Parent and Carer Coffee Morning 19th October
- DSPL9 SEND Parent and Carer Coffee Morning. Next date Spring Term 2027

DSPL 9 Triage Service

- offers guidance and practical support for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND.
- Supporting parents in navigating services and making referrals and the referral process.
- Promoting and signposting services available to parents of children and young people with SEND.
- Local SEND coffee mornings for parents/carers

To refer to the Triage team for support please complete the referral form [here](#)

Other services offering support or training

- [Add Vance](#) would like to remind about their support line
- Potential Kids share their October activities – including Half Term events.
- Coram Family Lives have a few places remaining on -Parenting when separated for parents of SEN children
- Step2Skills are holding an inclusive job fair 22nd October
- Coram Family Lives are offering five 2-hour parenting workshops.
- Hertfordshire CC share their New to SEND update.

- Hertfordshire Cricket is running inclusive cricket sessions.
- NESSIE have launched a new online community created to support parents, carers and those supporting children and young people with their mental health.
- North Hertfordshire College is pleased to announce their November open event at **Springboard Watford**
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DSPL 9

Emotionally Based School Anxiety Coffee Morning



DSPL 9 are pleased to be able to offer a face to face session for parents and carers of children and young people who are experiencing EBSA (emotionally based school anxiety/avoidance).

The event will be run by DSPL 9 with a Family Support Worker and Nessie Therapist available to offer support and guidance.

Monday 19 th October 2026	10-11.30am	ASDA Community Room 3, St Albans Rd, Watford WD24 7RT
Monday 25 th January 2027	10-11.30am	The Green Room, Bournehall Primary School
Monday 26 th April 2027	10-11.30am	Otley Way Family Centre, Otley Way, South Oxhey, Watford, WD19 7TB

Please let us know you will be attending by contacting
admin@dsplarea9.org.uk.



DSPL9

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PARENT/CARER COFFEE MORNINGS 2026/27

The aim of these relaxed meetings

- To provide a safe space where you can talk freely about your child/young person and your family, and the challenges you are facing
- To help signpost parents/carers to the correct services/information
- To enable parents/carers to meet other local parents and connect with like-minded people in their community that may be going through similar challenges
- To be a listening and understanding ear, without judgement
- To help parents/carers feel that they are being supported and are not alone

Parents are welcome to bring along toddlers and children - including those that may be struggling to attend school for whatever reason. And of course, refreshments will be provided!

Please join [DSPL9](#) and [One YMCA](#) to find out about the support available locally and to meet other parents and carers of children with SEND.

- **9th February 10.00am-11.30am**
- **Westfield Family Centre**

YMCA
Herts • Beds • Bucks
[OneYMCA.org](https://www.onelymca.org)

If you would like to attend or to find out more please email us at enquiries@dsplareag.org.uk



Neurodiversity Support Hub

For Parents, Carers and
Professionals across Hertfordshire



01727 833 963



supporthub@add-vance.org

Whether you need practical advice, emotional support
or simply a listening ear, we're here for you.

Helpline hours:

Term Time: Mon, Wed & Fri: 9am - 1pm

Tues & Thurs: 9am - 3pm

Wed evenings (by appointment): 7pm - 9pm

School Holidays: Mon - Fri: 9am - 1pm

**All our helpline team are parents/carers
of neurodivergent children.**



Date		Sessions	Time	Venue
1st,8th 15th,22nd	Thu	Bushcraft/STEM Home Ed 4+	10.30 12.00	Potential to Grow Garden
1 st ,15th 3rd	Thur Sat	Youth Club 11-16(yr7-11)	5.30-7 1.30-3	The Hub@The Galleria
2nd,9th 16th,23rd	Fri	Gardening for Wellbeing	10.30 12.00	Potential to Grow Garden
2nd,9th 16th,23rd	Fri	Parent /Carer Wellbeing	12.30 2.00	Potential to Grow Garden
3rd	Sat	Tech support	10.00 1.00	The Zone@The Galleria
6th,13th, 20th	Tue	Coding & Game Design Home Ed 6-12yrs	1.00 2.30	The Zone@The Galleria
8th,22nd	Thur	Trampolining 5+	5.30 6.30	Gosling Sports Centre WGC
16th	Fri	Youth Group 16+	6.30 8.30	The Hub@The Galleria
23rd	Fr	Skateboarding 9+	5.30 6.30	The Pioneer Club
27th	Tue	Half Term Halloween Fun	10.30 12.30	Potential to Grow Garden
27th	Tue	Half Term 3D Printing 6-12	1.00 2.30	The Hub@The Galleria
27th	Tue	Half Term Roller Skating 8+	6.00 7.30	Roller city The campus WGC
29th	Thur	Half Term Trampolining 5+	6.00 7.00	Gosling Sports Centre WGC
29th	Thur	Half term Pony Morning 5-11	10.00 12.00	Danecroft Stables
31st	Sat	Potential tracks 10+	1.00 2.00	The Hub@The Galleria
31st	Sat	Family Football 7+	4.00 5.00	Birchwood Leisure Centre
		Dungeons & Dragons 12-adult		Contact for details



Parenting when separated for parents of SEN children - online programme

Come along to our six-session programme, specifically tailored to help separated parents navigate the complexities of co-parenting and provide the best possible support for their SEND child. This is a valuable opportunity to enhance co-parenting skills, support children's development and build a strong foundation for the future.

The programme includes:

- Understanding SEN and its impact on children and family dynamics
- Effective communication skills
- Managing emotions and stress
- Collaborative problem solving
- Building a supportive network
- Creating a unified parenting approach

Dates and times

Date: Tuesday 13th and 20th October, 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th November 2026

Time: 9.30am to 11.30am

Date: Wednesday 14th and 21st October, 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th November 2026

Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm

This will be delivered online via MS TEAMS

SCAN ME



For more information or to make a referral, scan the QR code, email services@coramfamilylives.org.uk or call **0204 522 8700** or **0204 522 8701**

We build better family lives together

www.coramfamilylives.org.uk

 @coramfamilyliveshertsandbeds

Funded by
Hertfordshire
County Council



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Step2Skills presents

Watford Inclusive Job Fair



- Meet employers to find out about local opportunities and the skills they are looking for
- Chat with the Step2Skills Supported Employment team
- BSL Interpreters available all day
- Bookable quiet hour

Book your space via the QR code, booking preferred but only essential for our 12pm - 1pm Quiet Hour slot



THURSDAY

22nd October, 2026



STARTS AT

10:00am - 2:00pm



LOCATION

Watford Colosseum,
Rickmansworth Road,
Watford, WD17 3JN

Contact us:



01992 556194



step2skills@hertfordshire.gov.uk

In partnership with:



WATFORD
BOROUGH
COUNCIL



Autumn Term Workshops

Anxiety around ADHD Workshop - Wednesday 21 October, 9.30am to 11.30am

This workshop helps parents/carers understand what ADHD is, why it makes sense for a child to be anxious if they have ADHD, strategies to help support you and your child, plus signposting to other support that is available.

Sibling Rivalry Workshop - Monday 9 November, 9.30am to 11.30am

This workshop provides parents/carers with practical strategies and tools to effectively foster positive sibling relationships, promote cooperation and manage conflicts between children.

Reducing Conflict Workshop - Wednesday 25 November, 7pm to 9pm

This workshop is for parents/carers struggling with conflict within their family life and provides tools to promote a cooperative and collaborative approach to resolving the conflict.

It's a Dad's Life Workshop - Thursday 26 November, 7pm to 9pm

This workshop empower fathers with the knowledge and skills to develop deep connections with their children, enhancing their parenting journey.

Navigating the Storm (Teens) Workshop - Wednesday 2 December, 9.30am to 11.30am

This workshop is designed to support parents of pre-teens and teenagers facing challenging behaviours. It aims to equip parents with effective strategies and tools to manage the complexities of raising adolescents, fostering a positive parent-teen relationship

The two-hour workshops will be online via MS TEAMS

All our programmes provide support, information and resources to parents, carers and adult family members in Hertfordshire so they can help their children reach their full potential. For more info, please contact **Louise** on **0204 522 8700/8701** or email **services@coramfamilylives.org.uk** or scan the QR code for our online form.



We build better family lives together

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Are you a parent of a young person aged 0 - 25
with SEND?

The Local Offer website lets parents and young people know what special educational needs and disabilities services are available in Hertfordshire, and who can access them.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer

Navigating the early stages of your child's SEND journey

When you are trying to understand how to set up support for your child's additional needs, there can be a lot to consider. It needn't feel overwhelming. 'New to SEND' is a handy one-pager featuring:

- Advice from families who share what they did when they were starting out.
- Support in the community, local organisations and networks.
- A starting point for considering how to get help from school, health or for yourself as a carer.

When you are ready to explore the detail further, the Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer website covers it all, but New to SEND is a good place to begin.

[Click here for New to SEND](#)

Super 1s

Free of charge inclusive cricket sessions for young people with a disability or neurodiverse condition

Have fun, be Active and make new friends

Participants are welcome to bring their friends/siblings to take part with them



Harpenden Hub

Thursdays 5-6pm

Katherine Warington School, Harpenden, AL5FH

Age: 10-25 year olds

Start Date: 08/10/26

West Herts Hub

Saturday 11am-Midday

Parmiters School, High Elms Lane, Watford, WD250UU

Age: 8-25 years old

8-13 year olds will train together, 14 year old plus together

Start Date: 03/10/26

Hatfield Hub

Sundays 5-7pm

Chancellors School, Pine Grove, Hatfield, AL97BN

Ages: 10-25 Years Old

Start Date: 04/10/26

Hitchin Hub

Saturdays 9-10am

Westmill Community Centre, John Barker Place, Hitchin, SG52PG

Age: 8-16 year olds

Start Date: 04/10/26



CONTACT:



Luke Heskett



07894318756



luke.heskett@hertscricket.org



LORD'S TAVERNERS

Empowering young people through cricket

www.lordstaverners.org/super1s

Registered Charity No. 306054 | OSCR No. SCO46238

[Click Here to Join the Nessie Community!](#)

We're so excited to finally welcome you to Nessie Community — a new online community created to support parents, carers and those supporting children and young people with their mental health.

We know how overwhelming it can feel when a child is struggling. Knowing where to turn, finding information you can trust, or simply connecting with people who get it can make such a difference.

That's why we've created Nessie Community.

Join FREE and you'll have access to:

- Helpful resources and practical information
- Live **Nessie Cuppas** — relaxed, informal conversations and a chance to connect
- Our **What's On** programme of events and sessions
- A growing library of support and guidance
- A community where you can feel understood and less alone

And this is just the beginning. We'll continue adding new resources, conversations, events and opportunities to connect as the Community grows.

More than 100 families have already joined us —



and we'd love you to be part of it too.

NESSIE
Helping Children & Young People Thrive

**KNOW A CHILD
STRUGGLING TO
ACCESS EDUCATION?**
**JOIN THE NESSIE COMMUNITY
FREE TODAY**


**EXPERT INFO
& RESOURCES**


**LIVE CUPPA
& DROP-INS**


**SCAN TO JOIN THE
NESSIE COMMUNITY
FREE**


**SUPPORTIVE
COMMUNITY**


**TRUSTED
SIGNPOSTING**

'Because no family should face this alone'

 [NESSIEINED.COM](https://www.nessieined.com)  



North Hertfordshire College is pleased to announce our November open event at **Springboard Watford** which will be held on **Thursday 5th 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.

Springboard
Unit 8 Wilmington Close
Watford
Hertfordshire
WD18 0FQ

The nearest car park is Gade car park in Rosslyn Road and Wilmington Close is off Upton Road:

<https://citipark.co.uk/car-parks/watford/gade-car-park>

Springboard, 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 course is for school leavers - 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 an EHCP – subject to funding being approved by the local authority.

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. The event is on drop-in basis and there is no need to book to attend.

If you are unable to attend but would like to find out more about our provision, we would be happy to arrange a visit on an individual basis. Please email Mark at the above email.

We look forward to meeting you at our open event

