

# DSPL1 Parents and Carers Newsletter – 24<sup>th</sup> March – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## Welcome

This month's update brings together key resources, training opportunities, wellbeing support, and upcoming events for parents and carers.

## National SEND Reforms & Consultations

The Department for Education have written shorter, simpler documents that [summarise the schools white paper and SEND consultation](#) for parents and those working in the sector.

## Have Your Say

[Herts Parent Carer Involvement \(HPCI\)](#) - will be preparing a detailed consultation response, and they welcome your feedback to help shape this. They want to make sure that they represent your views as much as possible. You can comment via [Facebook](#) or email [contact@hertsparentcarers.org.uk](mailto:contact@hertsparentcarers.org.uk).

You can also share your views by [taking part in the consultation online](#), or by responding to the consultation via email at [SENDreform.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk](mailto:SENDreform.CONULTATION@education.gov.uk).

The consultation closes on **Monday 18 May 2026**.

A series of documents summarising the Schools White Paper and SEND Consultation are available for parents and professionals:

[Every child achieving and thriving and SEND consultation supporting information - GOV.UK](#)

## Support for Families

### Families in Focus CIC – Free Online Courses

**A Complete Guide to Parenting Children with Autism & ADHD** – for Hertfordshire parents/carers of children aged 2–11

**Handling Anger in Your Family** – for Hertfordshire parents/carers of primary aged (no SEND needs)

**Understanding & Managing Anger in Primary Children with Autism & ADHD** – for parents/carers of Hertfordshire

Booking enquiries to [bookings@familiesinfofocus.co.uk](mailto:bookings@familiesinfofocus.co.uk)

Please find posters attached to give a more detailed breakdown of what each course will cover and course dates.

### SEND Local Offer

A central hub for SEND services, support, events, things to do and guidance in Hertfordshire which can be filtered by location, date and age range:

[SEND Local Offer | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

### Information and Advice about Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA)

Please find a supporting poster giving information on EBSNA – the poster gives suggestions of why a child could be anxious, the warning signs, what to do and strategies to try at home.

### Tune In Together – Help you grow

This is a 12-week small group intervention for Neurodivergent young people aged 15-18 years old held at **The Community Hall, Grace Community Church, Hydean Way, Stevenage.**

The workshop aims to build confidence and equip individuals with practical life skills which will support in their journey of accessing further education and employment. To see the key areas of support and session dates, please find the poster attached.

## Play and Learn Hub

A relaxed stay and play group for primary aged children with Down Syndrome. This group is run **Saturdays in term-time 2:30pm – 4:30pm** at **Applecroft School, WGC, AL8 6JZ**.

To book or find out more information, please contact [info@dsachieve.org](mailto:info@dsachieve.org) or **07824 467471**

## The Bridge is Back!

A support group designed for parents, carers and young people in school years 6,7 and 8 who are struggling with school attendance. This includes those who are not attending school at all or on a significantly reduced timetable. Some of the topics covered are:

- Anxiety and worries related to school
- Friendships and social dynamics
- Health and wellbeing
- Neurodiversity
- The Future

You can find out more on the attached leaflet and sessions will run for 12 weeks starting on **Thursday 16th April 2026—9th July 2026, 12:30pm-2:30pm** at **Welwyn Garden City Cricket Club, 288 Knightsfield, WGC, AL8 7NQ**

For more information and any questions, please contact:

[Alison.cowie@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.cowie@hertfordshire.gov.uk) or [karina.saunders@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:karina.saunders@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

## Step2Skills – Stevenage Inclusive Job Fair

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 10:00 – 14:00 (quiet hour 12:00 – 13:00)**

The Step2Skills Inclusive job fair is being held at **Stevenage Football Club, Broadhill Way, Stevenage, SG2 8RH**.

## Help for Families

Across Hertfordshire, the Herts Council are working in partnership to support families. Through these partnerships and the services funded, every child has the opportunity to thrive in a safe and supportive environment and there is support for families most in need.

To find out what's available and how to access it, please click the following link:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/.../help-for-families-in...>

## Upcoming Events

### Free Easter Activity Camps

Hertfordshire County Council is once again launching its free Easter activity camps for children and young people in Hertfordshire.

**Camps are running from 30 March and 10 April and places can be booked via the Herts Sports Partnership's website: [HAPpy Activity Camps](#)**

Fully funded holiday activity camps return for the Easter break, providing eligible children and young people with the chance to meet friends, learn new skills and enjoy nutritious food.

The **HAPpy programme** is funded by Hertfordshire County Council and the Department for Education (DfE) via the government's Holiday Activity and Food programme and coordinated by Herts Sport and Activity Partnership and the Hertfordshire Community Foundation.

### SEND Play Session

An exclusive SEND play session with arts and crafts, sensory rooms and inside play centre. This is being held on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 9:00am** at **SEN Pavilion, Aldenham Country Park**.

To find out more information and book a space, please visit:

[Easter: SEND pavilion - exclusive SEND play session, Watford - 18/04/2025 | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

### Families First: Working Together in Early Help

Families First will be hosting a series of presentations to include:

- Prevent (A UK government initiative that helps to protect people from radicalisation)
- Hertfordshire's Carers Strategy and new Young Carers offer

- An update on how the national Families First Partnership Programme is being implemented in Hertfordshire
- Other services including: Community Alliances (CVS), MIND and Virtual School

**Thursday 30 April, 9.30am-12.00pm, Broxbourne Borough Council, Cheshunt**

**Thursday 14 May, 9.30am – 12.00pm, Three Rivers District Council, Rickmansworth**

**Monday 18 May, 9.30am - 12.00pm, Sadie Centre, Letchworth**

**Thursday 21 May, 9.30am – 12.00pm, South Hill Centre, Hemel Hempstead**

**[Book you place here](#)**