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June 2026

Please click event for more information

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Half-term Activities

[Holiday Gymnastics Class – SEN](#)

Thursday 28th May, 11:00 – 12:00

Website: [Holiday Club Gymnastics Classes — Marriotts Gymnastics Club](#)

This small open gymnastics class of just 20 places is only for children with SEN and their parent / carer.

It incorporates fun, games and coordination activities which are supervised by the child's parent / adult carer and overseen by our coaches. The equipment is set up for jumping, balancing,



swinging, rolling, running, throwing and catching. Children work at their own pace with you and staff are on hand to advise how to use the equipment with your child.

Please Note:

- children must be 4-9 years or on the day to participate
- children must have SEN or may be refused entry to the class.
- A maximum of ONE participating child can be supervised per parent / adult carer (1 child=1 carer, 2 children = 2 carers etc) and you must stay with your child at all times. Please note that you will not be allowed to participate if you do not have the correct number of carers to children
- This means that only one adult can be with a participating child in the gymnastics hall at any time
- siblings not participating in the class are NOT allowed in the gymnastics hall and those under the age of 13 are NOT allowed to be left unsupervised in the waiting area.
- Pushchairs cannot be accommodated inside the gymnastics hall but may be left in the waiting area at your own risk

Cost: £9.00 per child

[Hudnell Park – May half term activities for young people with SEND](#)

[Website: Hudnall Park](#)

Hudnall Park is Services for Young People's outdoor activity centre set in 85 acres of beautiful parkland, private woodland and meadows, five miles from Hemel Hempstead in the west of Hertfordshire.

We offer tailor-made programmes of activities designed to develop young people's social, emotional and physical skills in a safe and supportive environment.

During the May 2026 half term holidays we are offering adventurous outdoor activities to young people aged 13-19 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), including those with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs. Young people are eligible until the summer holiday of the year they turn 19 (if in full time education).

The activities are funded by Hertfordshire County Council Short Breaks but there is a small fee of £7 for each 2-hour activity session which is non-refundable. If young people stay for the full day (two 2-hour activity sessions plus a supervised 1-hour lunch break) the cost for the five hours is £17.50. Young people staying for lunch will need to bring their own packed lunch.

Families can book as many hours as they wish within their Short Breaks Local Offer (SBLO) hours allocation. If you are not registered for Short Breaks, please [register here](#) before booking.

All sessions are for a maximum of 12 people. Please note that we cannot offer one-to-one support for young people attending these activities so they will need to be able to take part without additional individual support.



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[SEN and Pan-disability holiday camp](#)

Website: [SEN and Pan-disability holiday camp - Watford Football Club \(ages 7-14\)](#)

Tuesday 26 May 9.30am - 1.30pm, Meriden Community Centre

For young people aged 7-14 with any form of physical and/or learning disability or special educational need. £25

[NEW SEND Family Fun - Free drop in](#)

Chestnut Tree Family Centre, Letchworth, SG6 2JZ

28th May. 13:30 - 14:30

[SEND Family Fun - Free drop in](#)

Broadwater Family Centre, Stevenage, SG2 8LT

28th May - 10:00 - 11:00

Website for further information: [May half term Family Fun 2026](#)

[Support Groups](#)

Bridge Support Group

Thursdays, 12.30pm - 2.30pm, Welwyn Cricket Club

A support group designed for parents, carers and young people in school years 6,7 and 8 who are struggling with school attendance.

['The Bridge' Support group \(for parents of children struggling to attend school\) Welwyn - 14/05/2026 | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

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 or **07824 467471**

SEND Chat and Play

Our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Chat and Play sessions are a great opportunity to come and meet other families going through a similar journey, in a relaxed environment. Our SEND Champions are on hand to talk to you about the services we offer, signpost to different organisations or to simply act as a listening ear. All are welcome whether your child is diagnosed or you are concerned about a possible need. We have toys out for the children, or you can come by yourself. We hope to see you soon! *Drop in, no booking required!*

SEND Chat and Play - Free drop in

Arise & Shine, Letchworth Garden City Church, SG6 1EF

12th May, 9th Jun, 14th Jul

10:00 - 11:15

Come and meet with professionals from the Early Years SEND Team 12th May



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SEND Chat and Play - Free drop in

Broadwater Family Centre, Stevenage, SG2 8LT

Thursdays Weekly 10:00 - 11:00 (not on 28th May) *Come and meet with professionals from the Early Years SEND Team and Public Health Nursing Team 2nd Jul*

NEW SEND Chat and Play - Free drop in

Chestnut Tree Family Centre, Letchworth, SG6 2JZ

Thursdays Weekly 13:30 - 14:30 (not on 28th May)

Inclusive Online Dance Sessions

Para Dance UK at Communities 1st offers inclusive dance sessions for those with disabilities, all ages and abilities, featuring various styles like street and folk. They focus on fun, physical activity and community.

Join their fun weekly online sessions for adults and children, with instructors adapting to all levels. They also run local groups that foster a sense of family and belonging, plus an online after-school club for kids to explore dance.

- Adults Inclusive Dance – Mondays 10am (13 April to 20 July).
- Primary After School Inclusive Dance Club – Wednesdays 4.15pm, (15 April to 22 July)
- Young Adults Inclusive Dance Club – Wednesdays 5pm (15 April to 22 July)

All classes are via Zoom. Classes will not run on Bank Holidays, during May Half Term, or during the week of 1st June.

Cost: £10 per person, per year

Please contact paradance@communities1st.org.uk to make a booking, or for any other enquiries.

Surveys



Invitation to share your views on support for school attendance

We are inviting families to take part in a piece of work to help us better understand families' experiences of support related to children's school attendance.

This work focuses on families who have experienced persistent or significant difficulties with school attendance. We are keen to learn what support has been helpful, and how support could be improved for families in the future.



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Who can take part?

We are particularly interested in hearing from families who meet the following criteria:

- you live in Hertfordshire
- your child attends or is enrolled in a school in Hertfordshire
- your child has experienced significant difficulties attending school
- your child's attendance difficulties are not primarily related to hospitalisation or medical treatment.

Ways to take part

There are different ways to share your views, and you can choose what feels right for you:

- completing a short online survey (around 10 minutes) **Understanding Families' Experiences of Support for School Attendance – Fill in form** or clicking on the QR code below
- taking part in a focus group (around 1 hour)
- taking part in both the survey and a focus group

At the beginning of the survey, you will be asked how you would like to take part.

If you choose to express an interest in a focus group, you will have the option to provide your name and contact details (email address and/or telephone number). Providing contact details is completely optional and will only be used to contact you about the focus group.

The closing date for the survey is Friday 22 May 2026.

If you have any questions about this work, please contact Fiona Convey at **Fiona.Convey@hertfordshire.gov.uk**





Emotional and Mental Wellbeing

In Hertfordshire children and young people who are registered with a Hertfordshire GP can currently access a range of services to support them with their emotional and mental wellbeing. This includes free online, virtual and digital support delivered through WithYouth young people's service for 5-18-year-olds (including the Lumi Nova game) and the Sandbox for 10–25-year-olds.

To ensure we are commissioning services that are based on the needs of children and young people, Hertfordshire County Council and the NHS are seeking the views of those who have or may access these services' support.

By completing this short survey as a young person or a parent/carer of a young person, you will help us understand your views and opinions as well as indicating what you might want from future online, virtual or digital mental health and emotional wellbeing support.

Complete the survey as a Parent/Carer or child or young person here: <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/KTULEE/>

SEND Provision Plan

The Hertfordshire SEND Local Area Partnership has developed a [SEND Provision Plan 2026-29](#) which supports the delivery of the [new SEND Strategy for 2026–2029](#). The strategy sets out our shared ambitions to improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

More children and young people in Hertfordshire are requiring additional support at school, many presenting with increasingly more complex needs than in the past. Families have consistently told us they want clearer pathways and better local options. In response, this Special Education, Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Provision Plan outlines how we will strengthen support in local schools, increase specialist provision where it is needed, and ensure every child receives the right help, in the right place, at the right time.

Feedback gathered so far has helped identify key priorities and has informed the five core elements of the draft SEND Provision Plan:

- Strengthen capacity in mainstream schools
- Expand specialist capacity in mainstream schools
- Create more special school places
- Update special school designations
- Child centred placements



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As part of the SEND Provision Consultation running from 23 March to 15 June 2026, we are seeking your views on whether the plan reflects your priorities, and how it can be further strengthened before it is finalised.

You can share your feedback by completing a [short survey](#) or by attending one of our consultation events. All details on how to get involved are available on the Local Offer: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDProvisionPlan

Thank you for your time, your views are important to us. All responses will be carefully considered and will directly influence the final SEND Provision Plan for 2026–2029.

Online Workshops

Angels Autism & ADHD Support



WEEKLY ONLINE WORKSHOP AND SUPPORT
10AM-12PM EVERY TUESDAY DURING TERM TIME

FREE :Workshop topic presentation opening to online support on any topic

Topic List:

- 28 April- Speaker: Charley Crowe SASS: Transitions – Between school years and phase transfers
- 5 May - Speakers: HPCI - Kate Hudson & Lynn Turnball - White Paper Consultation
- 12 May - EBSA - Emotionally Based School Absence
- 19 May - Executive Function Dysfunction

Scan this QR code to access our support and zoom links



www.angelssupportgroup.org.uk

HELP
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Families in Focus – Handling Anger of Children with Autism & ADHD

For parents of children aged 4–11 with a diagnosis or on assessment pathways.



Handling Anger of Children with Autism & ADHD

(inclusive of those on assessment pathways)

FREE Online Course for Parents in Hertfordshire
Why join Francine & Lesley on this course?

**Understand more about Autism, ADHD,
and sensory differences**

**Learn what's happening in your child's brain
during anger**

Gain practical tools too build emotional regulation

Develop calming routines and reduce daily stress

Connect with other parents in a supportive space

6 x Tuesdays

9.30am to 11.30am or 6.30pm to 8.30pm

June 2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th & July 7th

 **Email Francine & Lesley:**

bookings@familiesinfoocus.co.uk



Talking ASD and ADHD – free course for parents

A series of workshops for parents and carers of young people with (diagnosed OR suspected) ASD & ADHD, commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council to provide FREE support, information and advice for families of children living and/or schooling in Herts.

Please find the booking link here:

[Talking ASD & ADHD: *FREE* for parents in Herts | Eventbrite](#)



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Supporting Links – Funded Parent and Carer Support

Supporting Links are hosting various free courses delivered via Zoom for parents and carers in Hertfordshire across the Summer Term.

- **Talking Teens**
- **Talking Families**
- **Talking Dads**
- **Talking Additional Needs**

Please find further information and booking information at the following: [New What's On](#)

Financial Support

Balancing work and caring commitments can sometimes lead to financial pressure and add to stress.

The Money section of the Hertfordshire SEND Local Offer website provides essential information and guidance to help navigate the financial aspects of caring for a child with SEND.

It's split out into 3 sections:

1. **Funding you can apply for:**

Discover various funding options including Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independence Payments (PIP), Carer's Allowance, Personal budgets plus more.

2. **Advice and help with knowing what you're eligible for:**

Find services who can help to complete application forms, understand your eligibility for certain grants and funds and navigate difficult financial situations.

3. **Funding available to education providers:**

Learn about the funding that schools and early years settings can apply for.

Visit Money on the SEND local Offer website:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/Local-Offer/Money/Money.aspx>



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NHS Healthy Start Payments

If you're more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk. The amount of money you receive for Healthy Start payments has increased.

If you're eligible, you'll be sent a Healthy Start card with money on it that you can use in some UK shops. The benefit will be added onto this card every 4 weeks.

You can use your card to buy plain cow's milk, fresh, frozen and tinned fruit and vegetables, pulses and infant formula milk.

You can also use your card to collect:

Healthy Start vitamins – these support you during pregnancy and breastfeeding vitamin drops for babies and young children – these are suitable from birth to 4 years old

[Find out if you qualify and register online.](#)

WaterSure Scheme

Families with children who have SEND may be able to get help with water bills through the **WaterSure scheme**. WaterSure caps your water bill if you use extra water because of medical or care needs.

To qualify you must:

- Be on certain benefits (check with your supplier which benefits they cover)
- Have a **water meter** (or be waiting for one to be installed)
- Have a high essential use of water (this means you have three or more children under 19 in full-time education, or a child with a medical condition or disability that requires your household to use a lot of water)

Apply directly through your **water supplier**.

For more information, [visit the Contact website](#)



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Information

Services for Young People Youth Councils

Services for Young People (SfYP) youth councils for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are enabling young people to have their voices heard.

Supported by professionally qualified Youth Workers, the youth council members have been engaging in many consultations and co-productions. They have worked with commissioners, councillors, senior leaders and other professionals and organisations to give their feedback on a wide range of services and campaigns across education and healthcare.

[Read the latest update for full details of all 10 youth council's activities](#)

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](#)

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...>