

DSPL 1 Covers North Herts (Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth & Royston)

One way in which Hertfordshire provides support to children and young people with SEND across the county is through our Delivering Special Provision Locally groups (DSPLs).

There are 9 DSPL areas. The reason for having different area groups means that the groups can cater the provision to exactly what their area needs, giving a more focused approach to providing the right support for the right locality. They provide support to schools and also widen the choice for parents and families of support outside of school in the local area.

Each DSPL group is made up of:

- · Parents and carers
- · Staff from early years settings, schools and colleges
- · People from other SEND organisation

Please see our website for further information. We will distribute information, training or forum information via your child's school

https://nhdspl.org.uk/

Useful links for Parents and Carers in North Herts (DSPL 1)

We have put together some of the many resources available to families at this current time – please check websites for up to date information.

July 2020



DSPL 1 has commissioned NESSie to provide support to our schools and settings. They have provided a variety of training for parents and professionals in DSPL 1 area.

https://nessieined.com/about-us/

The Hertfordshire Local Offer

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



https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/Local-Offer/The-Hertfordshire-Local-Offer.aspx









Lockdown October 2020 Zoom Parent Network

Harpenden with Francine and Lesley	Thursday October 1st 7pm - 9pm	Understanding more about children's sensory world with Bev Hamilton, SEN Consultant at Ask Bev Consultancy,
Hemel Hempstead with	Monday October 5th	Choosing the right school that fits your child with
Francine and Lesley	9.30 - 11.30am	Helena Marks-Dwyer, Independent SEND Advisor
Watford with Francine	Monday October 5th	Choosing the right school that fits your child with
and Lesley	7pm - 9pm	Helena Marks-Dwyer, Independent SEND Advisor
Stevenage with Francine and Lesley	Thursday October 8th 9.30 - 11.30am	Sensory issues
Hatfield with Siobhann and Francine	Thursday October 8th 7pm - 9pm	How SEN support works in schools
Hemel Hempstead ASD/ADHD/	Monday October 12th	Tips for keeping children with
PDA with Siobhann and Maria	9.30 - 11.30am	SEND safe online with YC Herts

Meetings will be online via Zoom. Any parent who has not attended a Parent Network session before and would like to do so, please email bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk. Parents who have attended previous sessions will receive a text invitation to join the virtual meetings







@FiFHerts

www.familiesinfocus.co.uk

https://www.familiesinfocus.co.uk/







Lockdown September 2020 Zoom Parent Network

Hemel Hempstead with Francine and Lesley	Monday September 7th 9.30 - 11.30am	Transition back to primary schools
Watford with Francine	Monday September 7th	Helping your child have a voice in schools with
and Lesley	7pm - 9pm	Helena Marks-Dwyer, Independent SEND Advisor
Stevenage with Francine	Thursday September 10th	Effective school meetings with Helena
and Lesley	9.30 - 11.30am	Marks-Dwyer, Independent SEND Advisor
Harpenden with Francine	Thursday September 10th	EHCP first steps with Helena Marks-
and Lesley	7pm - 9pm	Dwyer, Independent SEND Advisor
Hatfield with Siobhann	Thursday September 10th 7pm - 9pm	Strategies to support children with PDA
Hemel Hempstead ASD/ADHD/ PDA with Siobhann and Maria	Monday September 14th 9.30 - 11.30am	EHCP First Steps

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Got an issue you want to talk about one to one?

Need some advice or information on any issue, big or small?

You can access our service in several ways; on the phone, via email, What's App or Facebook Messenger, or book an appointment in person.

We offer individualised family support and information covering behaviour, education, communication, developing life skills and accessing services, or any other difficulties associated with ASCs and ADHD. Our support comes from trained and qualified specialist parents with lived experience. Support with meetings with Education, Health and Social Care, including SEN Support/EHCPs, TAFs/Families First. Support with forms and applications (EHCPS, benefits and appeals)

WELCOME TO ANGELS SUPPORT GROUP

Angels supports families of children with Autistic Spectrum Condition and/or ADHD. We were formed by, and are led by, parents whose children face similar challenges.

Angels is an experience-led charity, based in Hertfordshire, which provides individualised, professional expertise and advice. We work alongside parents to build understanding and to empower them to hear their child's voice. Our key aim is to maximise the individual potential of each child and young person.

- Group meetings, workshops and individual support for parents/ carers
- Find support
- · Share ideas, experiences and concerns
- Reduce isolation
- · Help your child reach their potential



At this current time, during the Coronavirus pandemic, we are offering regular appointments for One-to-Ones using Zoom or WhatsApp. To book a 121 appointment please see the website: https://angelssupportgroup.org.uk/. These will either take place using Zoom or WhatsApp, whichever is easier for you. Appointments will be offered on Monday morning and Thursday morning, but if you are not able to make the published times, we have some flexibility, please contact Kirsten to discuss your needs.





Up on Downs are offering a numbers of sessions to families with children of all ages. These are being delivered online. Please contact them for more details.

http://upondowns.com/contact-us/



ADD-vance

The ADD-vance ADHD and Autism Trust Reg. Charity No. 1158968

FREE WEBINARS

Going Back to School after Covid-19

This FREE one-hour webinar, delivered via Zoom, will explore how we can support neurodiverse children to return to school in September (maximum 98 attendees).

It is designed for parent/carers of children with a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of ADHD and/or Autism who are in mainstream education. We will cover basic principles and specific ideas relevant to all ages.

The 40-min presentation will be followed by 20 mins of questions and answers led by Specialist ADHD/Autism Trainers from ADD-vance. A summary handout and list of suggested resources will be made available to participants by email afterwards.

We will also provide details of online support groups running throughout the summer to enable participants to address follow-up questions and concerns (maximum 10 attendees per group).

Webinars can be accessed free via a PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone. Joining instructions will be provided by email the day before the scheduled session.

This webinar will run on four separate dates:

Wednesday 15th July 7.30 – 8.30pm Wednesday 29th July 7.30 – 8.30pm Wednesday 12th August 7.30 – 8.30pm Wednesday 26th August 7.30 – 8.30pm

For more information and to book your FREE place on one of the above dates, please see http://add-vance.eventbrite.com/. Bookings open on Monday 6th July 2020 at 1 pm.

http://add-vance.eventbrite.com

These webinars are funded by Hertfordshire Community Foundation and are open to residents of Hertfordshire only.



Registered Office: Foundation House, 2-4 Forum Place, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 ORN Helpline: 01727 833963

Email: Herts@add-vance.org Web: www.add-vance.org

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Disclaimer: please check provider websites for up to date information.

All information subject to change.

Helpline: 01727 833963

Email: Herts@add-vance.org Web: www.add-vance.org

Understanding ADHD and Autism

This introductory course is designed for parent/carers of children aged 5 to 14 yrs with a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of ADHD and/or Autism. Every course is bespoke to the needs of each group. Learning outcomes include:

- Understanding ADHD, Autism and related conditions
- Building your child's self-esteem
- Understanding anxiety and anger triggers
- Reducing meltdowns and other behaviours which challenge
- Developing positive behaviour strategies
- Working collaboratively with school

- Knowing your rights and how to advocate for your child
- Reducing your own stress levels
- Managing the needs of siblings
- Improving communication as a family
- Connecting with other families and sharing experiences
- Signposting to useful resources and local support networks.

Courses will be delivered online via Zoom with a maximum of 12 participants. They will run as a series of 12 x 1 hour sessions or 6×2 hour sessions over six weeks. All sessions must be attended.

The sessions can be accessed free via a PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone. Joining instructions will be provided beforehand and the first session will provide an opportunity to practice using the technology.

Six separate courses will be running on the following dates:

Mondays and Wednesdays 13th July to 19th August 10 - 11am

Tuesdays and Thursdays 14th July to 20th August 10 - 11am

Tuesdays and Thursdays 14th July to 20th August 7.30 - 8.30pm

Wednesdays and Fridays 22nd July to 28th August 1.30 – 2.30pm (parent/carers of girls)

Saturdays 18th July to 22nd August 2 - 4pm

Saturdays 18th July to 22nd August 2 – 4pm (Dads only)

For more information and to book your FREE place please see http://add-vance.eventbrite.com/. Bookings open on Friday 3rd July 2020 at 1 pm.

These courses are funded by Herts County Council and are open to residents of Hertfordshire only.

Registered Office: Foundation House, 2-4 Forum Place, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 ORN

Helpline: 01727 833963

Email: Herts@add-vance.org Web: www.add-vance.org

Understanding Teens with ADHD and Autism

This course is designed for parent/carers of children aged 12 to 15 yrs with a diagnosis or suspected diagnosis of ADHD and/or Autism. A basic knowledge of ADHD and/or Autism is assumed. Every course is bespoke to the needs of each group. Learning outcomes include:

- Understanding the challenges faced by teens living with ADHD and/or Autism
- Helping your teen to understand themselves better and develop their identity
- Exploring your parenting style and how this may impact your teen
- Considering the importance of communication and empathy
- Using positive behaviour strategies which work for teens
- Supporting your teen to develop healthy relationships with others
- Understanding why your teen is more likely to feel anxious or angry
- Developing strategies to help them manage and regulate emotions
- Spotting the signs of secondary mental health disorders
- Understanding how to manage growing levels of independence safely
- Building a positive, collaborative relationship with school
- Planning for the future
- Signposting to useful resources and local support networks.

Courses will be delivered online via Zoom with a maximum of 12 participants. They will run as a series of 12 x 1 hour sessions over six weeks. All sessions must be attended.

The sessions can be accessed free via a PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone. Joining instructions will be provided beforehand and the first session will provide an opportunity to practice using the technology.

Two separate courses will be running on the following dates:

Mondays and Wednesdays 20th July to 26th August 10 - 11am

Tuesdays and Thursdays 21st July to 27th August 1.30 – 2.30pm

For more information and to book your FREE place please see http://add-vance.eventbrite.com/. Bookings open on Friday 3rd July 2020 at 1 pm.

These courses are funded by Herts County Council and are open to residents of Hertfordshire only.

http://www.add-vance.org/parents/

Disclaimer: please check provider websites for up to date information.

All information subject to change.



Schools and Families Advice Line (SFAL)

The 'Schools and Families Advice Line' (SFAL) is a new service established to provide emotional wellbeing advice and early help to children and young people, school staff and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It can be really worrying when you, or someone you know is going through a difficult time. If you feel this service could help, please call our Single Point of Access (SPA) who will take your details before passing them onto our call back service.

Contact Details:

Telephone: 0300 777 0707

Email: hpft.spa@nhs.net

You will get a call back from a mental health practitioner between 8am-5pm, Monday-Friday

How can the service help?

Supporting school staff by:

- Signposting to wellbeing resources which could be used in the classroom.
- Supporting education staff to think about how they might adapt their current wellbeing processes to the COVID-19 situation.
- General discussion and psychoeducation for school staff around wellbeing/coping methods/normalising etc.
- Signposting individual staff to wellbeing resources (e.g. hard copy/virtual and website based/phone apps).
- One-off phone/video consultations to discuss staff wellbeing.

Supporting children, young people and their families by providing early advice around managing:

- Specific anxieties (around COVID-19/self-isolating measures, transition between year groups, developing and maintaining relationships, fear of failure, low self-esteem or aspirations, trust issues, social anxiety, etc.)
- Phobias (animals/insects, specific food stuffs, specific objects, modes of transport etc.)
- Low mood
- Emotional regulation difficulties.
- Mild obsessive compulsive difficulties that are starting to impact day to day activities.

Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust

Positive Alternatives

Please see details below of a two week programme for young people to learn about keeping themselves safe and engage in positive alternatives to gangs and knife crime. Positive Alternatives is a project for young people aged 11-17 incorporating practical sport or art sessions with interactive workshops which explore personal safety, understanding exploitation, gang culture and crime. Each session includes 2 hours of sports / arts activities delivered by specialist staff. On completion of the programme young people will receive a certificate of participation and a £30 Amazon youcher.



All programmes include ten dynamic and interactive workshop sessions delivered by qualified and experienced youth workers which focus on:

- identity and belonging
- gang culture
- stereotypes and gender
- violence
- responsibilities
- county lines
- knife crime and reducing use of weapons

You can refer a young person to this programme, particularly if they are:

- not in employment, education or training
- persistently absent and/or excluded from school or an Educational Support Centre
- Vulnerable to exploitation
- experiencing poor mental health

Please contact $\underline{\text{ych@hertfordshire.gov.uk}}$ if you require further information or visit the $\underline{\text{YC}}$ $\underline{\text{Hertfordshire website}}$

Local Links

DSPL Delivering Special Provision Locally		
Achieving quality	nttp://www.nndspi.org.uk/	
Hertfordsh SEND Local Offer		
https://www.he	rtfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/Local-Offer/The-Hertfordshire-Local-Offer.aspx	
Families First Early help, brighter futures	The Families First portal is a directory of organisations, services and groups in Hertfordshire that can help you with problems you or your family may be facing, before things might get worse. This is known as 'Early Help'. You may not want or need to ask for help from a professional and there's lots of support you can find yourself by looking on the portal. https://directory.hertfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/familiesfirst.page?familiesfirstchannel=0	
Hertfordshire	https://directory.hertfordshire.gov.uk/Categories/29	
Healthy B North Herts For support call 01462 474111	See website for useful information and links, including COVID-19 Support: https://healthyhubnorthherts.co.uk/covid-19-support01462 474111	
Healthy Young	https://www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk/parents-and-carers	
Young Minds	https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/supporting-a-child-returning-to-school-after-lockdown/	
STARS	http://www.starsteam.org.uk/coronavirus-resources Resources for transitioning back to school	
Hertfordshire SEND Information, Advice & Support Service (SENDIASS)	SENDIASS is an impartial information, advice and support service funded by Hertfordshire County Council for parents, carers, young people (0-25) and professionals. Phone 01992 555847 or email sendiass@hertfordshire.gov.uk. Find out more at https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/support/sendiass.aspx https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/support/sendiass.aspx	
The KIDS East and West HUBs	01923 676549 The KIDS HUB offers information and support for parents and carers of disabled children / children with additional needs. aged 0-19 in Hertfordshire. KIDS Hub directory of SEND services has also now been published. www.kids.org.uk/hub HARC (Hertfordshire Branch)	
Angels Support Group	Angels Support Group was formed in response to families in the community in desperate need of support for themselves and their children. All of our volunteers have children with either ADHD or an autistic spectrum disorder and are committed to providing a resource that people will find both useful and accessible, making it available to as many families as possible info@angelsupportgroup.org.uk 01462 685150 http://www.angelssupportgroup.org.uk	
ADD-vance	Provide specialist information, training and advice for professionals as well as support for children, adults and families on issues relating to Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) & related conditions. Free membership for parents and carers or professionals offers priority information on ADD-vance courses, training and workshops, carefully selected relevant and useful information. Professionals, children, adults and families can reach us for information or support via: 01727 833963 (Mon-Thurs 9am to 1pm), answer phone service at other times. herts@add-vance.org www.add-vance.org	
Up On Downs	Monthly Family and Friends meetings are held in Hitchin Youth Trust, Walsworth Road every 2 nd Saturday of the month (except August) between 2pm and 4pm. There are also training events across the County. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Sande, Jan or Eleanor at: enquiries.nhdowns@yahoo.co.uk or call 01727 420365. http://upondowns.com/ or search for Up on Downs on Facebook.	
Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database	You are entitled to join HAND if you are the parent or carer of a child or young person with an additional need or disability aged 0-19. Benefits of joining include a leisure concession card, and subscription to the HAND newsletter. https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/fun-and-respite/hertfordshire-additional-needs-database.aspx	
Parents and Carers – How can you get involved?	Hertfordshire Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI) is the parent carer forum for Hertfordshire & part of a national network of parent carer forums. It is an independent parent carer led organisation. It aims to improve services for families by working alongside those providing services for children & young people with SEND (Special educational needs and disabilities) http://www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/	
Young Carers	Young Carers are children and young people who care for a member of their family. That person may be ill, have a physical or learning disability, or a mental health, drug or alcohol problem. The main focus of the service is to work with children, young people and their families to help them find support locally to reduce the amount of caring young carers have to do. https://www.carersinherts.org.uk/how-we-can-help/young-carers	