



QUICK LINKS – NEW THIS WEEK & NEWS

TRANSITION PHASES & EXAMS

Road to Year 7 - WithYouth

- **Services for Young People** : [Get September Ready July 2024 news story](#). **North Herts** 16th July, 1.30-3.30pm, at Letchworth Young People’s Centre. **Stevenage** 17th July, 1.30-3.30pm, at Stevenage Young People’s Centre
- [Transitions - school/college/work](#)
- [Choosing the right school for your family](#)
- [Children's Wellbeing Practitioners Service | Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust \(hct.nhs.uk\)](#) Pre-recorded webinar, workshops for parents / carers and young people and links to the guidance docs.
- [Anxiety, Stress, and Panic](#) 🌀
- [Exam and Revision Stress](#)
- [Hertfordshire | Togetherall](#)

Support on a page

These resource documents are now available to download from the Local Offer. You'll find them all on the relevant pages in the [Services for Children and Young People's area on the Local Offer website](#), or you can download them with the links provided below.

- [Speech, Language and Communication \(pdf 166kb\)](#)
- [Neurodiversity \(pdf 195kb\)](#)
- [Learning difficulties \(pdf 143kb\)](#)
- [Deafness and sight loss \(pdf 145kb\)](#)
- [Physical needs \(pdf 144kb\)](#)
- [Behaviours that challenge \(pdf 181kb\)](#)
- [Mental health \(pdf 204kb\)](#)

GRIT'S SUMMER WELLBEING WORKSHOP

3 FEELGOOD DAYS OF:

- BOXING
- FITNESS
- CREATIVITY
- FUN!

WHEN 5TH-7TH AUGUST OR 19TH-21ST AUGUST 9:30-15:30

WHO AGE 11+

WHERE ELITE GYM STATION APPROACH HITCHIN

BOOK NOW HELLO@GRITCHARITY.ORG

GRIT: GROWING RESILIENCE IN TEENS LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

SUGGESTED £10 DONATION PER DAY

EMPOWERING PARENTS TO HELP CHILDREN THRIVE

Bounce Forward | **HARRY KANE FOUNDATION**

Bounce Forward, in collaboration with the Harry Kane Foundation, are offering a series of six online sessions that equip parents with the knowledge and tools to foster mental resilience and emotional wellbeing for themselves and their children.

What we'll cover

- How the brain works, the link between thoughts, feelings and behaviour
- Reframing optimism and thinking flexibly to overcome adversity
- Helping children gain more control over how they feel and behave
- Developing empathy
- How to connect meaningfully
- Enabling a growth mindset and focusing on strengths

17,000+ parents highly rate this programme

REGISTER HERE



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| <p>Space Herts new this week/coming soon</p> <p>NEW TICS AND TOURETTE'S</p> <p>NEW ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS</p> <p>NEW NEURODIVERSITY GIRLS/WOMEN ADHD/AUTISM</p> <p>NEW SENSORY SIGNS, SIGNALS, SOLUTIONS</p> <p>NEW ADHD GIRLS/WOMEN</p> <p>NEW BEHAVIOUR AS COMMUNICATION</p> <p>NEW NAVIGATING THE SEND WORLD</p> | <p>ADD-Vance new this week/coming soon</p> <p>NEW TIPS/TOOLS POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR</p> <p>NEW IDENTIFYING ADHD AND/OR AUTISM</p> <p>NEW UNDERSTANDING ADHD & AUTISM FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF GIRLS (6WK COURSE)</p> <p>NEW UNDERSTANDING ADHD AND AUTISM IN TEENS (6WK COURSE)</p> <p>NEW UNDERSTANDING ADHD/AUTISM FOR DADS (6WK COURSE)</p> | <p>Angels Support Groups this week</p> <p>SUPPORT GROUPS: IN PERSON & EVENINGS</p> <p>NEW SURVIVING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS</p> |
| <p>Supporting Links NEW DATES ADDED</p> <p>TALKING TEENS</p> <p>TALKING DADS/MALE CARERS</p> <p>STRESS & ANXIETY</p> <p>COPING WITH CHANGE</p> | <p>NESSie this week/coming soon</p> <p>WHEN CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE STRUGGLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL – WEBINAR PLAYBACK</p> | <p>Child Wellbeing Practitioners</p> <p>NEW DEVELOPING CHILD'S EMOTIONAL LITERACY</p> <p>NEW GENERAL EMOTIONAL WELLBEING</p> <p>NEW SLEEP WORKSHOP</p> <p>NEW CHILD'S SELF-ESTEEM AND RESILIENCE</p> <p>NEW ADOLESCENT SELF ESTEEM AND RESILIENCE</p> <p>NEW EMOTIONAL WELLBEING</p> |
| <p>NHS Talking Therapies</p> <p>UNDERSTANDING ADHD AND LOW SELF-ESTEEM</p> <p>WHAT IS DYNAMIC INTERPERSONAL THERAPY</p> | <p>FAMILY LIVES</p> <p>NEW GETTING ON WITH YOUR PRE-TEEN/TEENAGER</p> <p>NEW LESS SHOUTING, MORE COOPERATION</p> <p>NEW SORTING OUT FAMILY ARGUMENTS</p> <p>NEW ANXIETY AROUND ADHD</p> | <p>SEND NEWS: View SEND News here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share your views for the SEND summit (all ages) • Hertfordshire's HAPpy Camps are back for summer (ages 5-16) • Free summer activities at Hudnall Park for young people with SEND (aged 13-19) • Get September ready - support form Services for Young People for students in year 11 |

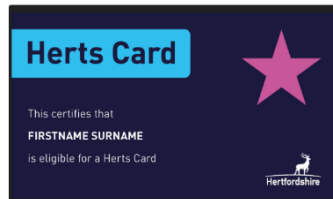


[Anger Avengers - WithYouth](#)
[Lumi Nova Online Group - WithYouth](#)
[Anxiety, Stress, and Panic](#)

Families in **Focus** **MORE NEW DATES ADDED**
COMPLETE GUIDE TO PARENTING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM/ADHD
HANDLING ANGER OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM/ADHD
HANDLING ANGER OF CHILDREN (NO SEND)

- [New online groups to support wellbeing and transition \(ages 5-18\)](#)
- [Events](#)
- **In this issue:**
- [Speak to a county councillor responsible for SEND at a listening event - now with an online option \(all ages\)](#)
- [Half-price summer library events for Herts Card holders \(ages 5+\)](#)
- [New resources added to the Neurodiversity Support on Local Offer \(all ages\)](#)
- [Support your child's speech and language with FOLLOW \(ages 0-5\)](#)
- [Events](#)
-

[Herts Card - additional needs database \(previously HAND\)](#)



[Recorded Webinars \(various topics\) Neurodiversity Support](#)





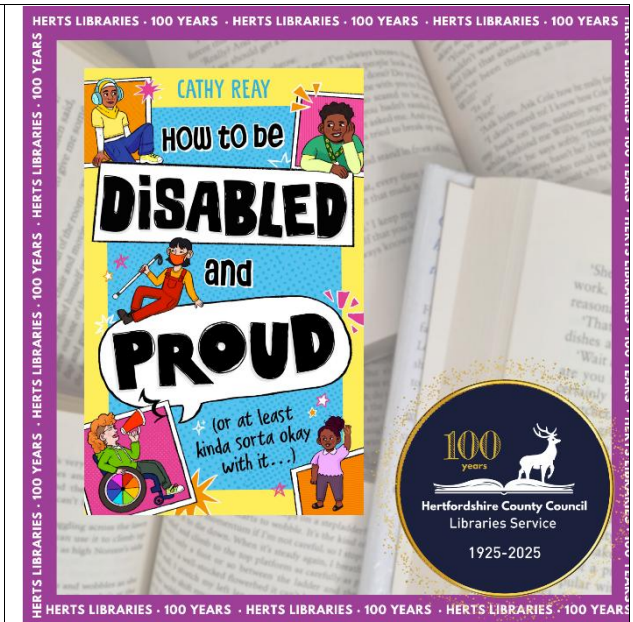
How to be Disabled and Proud *with author Cathy Reay*

Saturday 19 July, 2.30pm at Hitchin Library

We are excited to welcome local author Cathy Reay, author of *Disabled and Proud* to Hitchin Library to celebrate the Hitchin Festival and 100 years of Hertfordshire Libraries. Cathy's new book *Disabled and Proud* draws on the author's experience of growing up disabled and helps disabled children embrace (or at least feel OK with) their identity.

This event is open to all young people who want to learn more about disability and celebrate diversity. For ages 8+.

Tickets are £5 per child from [How to be Disabled and Proud | Hertfordshire County Council](#) or from Hitchin Library.



Help us improve the process for Stage 1 SEND complaints (all ages)

Colleagues from our SEND Resolution Service (the team that manages complaints and appeals about EHCPs) would like to hold a parent carer experience group.

If you are a parent carer who submitted a stage 1 complaint, which has since been closed in the last 3 months, the team would love to hear from you. A stage 1 complaint is the first stage of the formal complaint process.


What will the group be like? The group will help the Resolution Service gain an understanding of your experience with the SEND service and how we can share this learning to the wider service to enable improvement and development, with a focus on seeking early resolutions for families. A member of the team will be there, and service managers from other teams may also attend, to hear feedback about other parts of the SEND system, too.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, please email sendstrategy@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

We are holding the first session on Thursday 8th May, 10-11am, online. **If you cannot make this date and time but would be interested in taking part in the future, please get in touch and we can contact you ahead of the next session.**



SUMMER HOLIDAYS

| | | |
|--|---|---|
|  | Angels Support Group – Surviving the Summer Holidays Tuesdays – Zoom 10am to 12pm 15 July 2025 Angels 2025 Programme Summer Term April - July 2025 | |
| | Hertfordshire Holiday Activity Programme HAPpy – Bookings go live 26 June 2025, FREE for children/teens living in Hertfordshire who get benefits free school meals. HAPpy Activity Camps | |
| | Events for Young People – SPACE Hertfordshire SPACE activities are always very popular. To receive details of upcoming activities as soon as they are available to book, please join our community on Facebook and follow us on Eventbrite | |
| | SEND Local Offer Hertfordshire County Council | Neurodiversity Support |
| | Find an Activity - Herts Disability | Short Breaks |
| | Holidays – guide for parents and carers | Guest blog: Just Being Me - creating inclusive events |
| Events Inclusive United Summer Schedule for young adults 18+ with SEN | | Summer Reading Challenge Hertfordshire County Council |
| Family SEND Event at Hertford Fire Station Tickets, Sat 9 Aug 2025 at 11:00 Eventbrite | | |
| Lending SPACE Pop Up - Royston Tickets, Tue 12 Aug 2025 at 10:00 Eventbrite | | |
| Doughnutting Tickets, Tue 12 Aug 2025 at 15:00 Eventbrite | | |
| Have your say on SEND in Hertfordshire - a message from Hertfordshire County Council Hertfordshire’s SEND Summit is taking place this September, and we want to ensure that the voices of families are at the heart of it. Your experiences and ideas will help shape the event and our future SEND Strategy. The survey includes questions about your experiences with SEND services, what you think should be discussed at the summit, and what changes would make the biggest difference to your family. Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey and share your views. Your feedback will help us improve support for children and young people with SEND across the county. Thank you for being part of this important conversation. | | |



The Sandbox have released additional resources to help families understand about self-harm.

Hey friends,

We hope you're enjoying the start of your summer holidays! 🌻

This month, we're opening up an important conversation about [Self-Harm](#) - how to understand it, talk about it, and find support.

It's something many young people experience, but it's not always easy to talk about.

That's why we've created resources to help you explore better ways to cope and know where to find support if you or someone you care about is struggling.

This can be a difficult topic, so take your time, go at your own pace, and look after yourself while reading.

[What Is Self-Harm?](#)

[How Do I Open Up About Self-Harm?](#)

As always, you can find everything on the [Resource Zone](#).

Lumi Nova have lots of resources to help parents navigate 'transitions' especially when moving from primary to secondary school [Transition/Summer: Parent Email / Newsletter.docx - Google Docs](#)

English Language Group



First Friday in the month starting 4 July 2025. 2pm to 3pm Stevenage Central Library
Just drop-in. Free of charge
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

Homework Clubs (KS3 / KS4)

English for Beginners with a Ukrainian Teacher
ESOL English Language Course (Beginners)
See website for all events and activities
[NHMEF - North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum](#)



SIGNPOSTING

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Signposting | Previous Weekly, Parent Guide : News | |
| The SEND Local Offer | <i>A friendly face from the Local Offer team will take you through what's on the website and how you can use it to find the right services and support.</i> www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer |  |
| The SEND Community Directory | The SEND Community Directory is a great way of finding a wide range of community activities, support groups and services for families and young people with SEND. Click HERE for details. | |
| Head Up! | Student Mentoring for 14-18 year olds Accepting new signups for 2025 mentoring programme. Free scheme run by disabled students and graduates, supports 14-18 year olds who self-identify as disabled (or anyone who has a physical/mental health condition, SpLD, or neurodiverse). Click HERE for further details. | |
| 'My Health Information Document' (ages 11-17) | The 'My Health Information Document' contains important health information about young people aged 11-17 with health needs or special education needs, or both. It can be used by health professionals to make sure that the young person can access effective support and also help them prepare for the transition into adulthood. More Information click HERE . Pupils view click HERE . | |
| Duke of Edinburgh's Award projects | Duke of Edinburgh's Award projects for young people with SEND (ages 14-24) Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People (SfYP) will be launching 4 new Duke of Edinburgh's Aware (DofE) projects across Hertfordshire. Specifically designed for young people with SEND, young people missing from education, home educated young people, and young people being supported by a social worker. The SfYP DofE projects will offer a range of activities, from environmental conservation to community support opportunities, ensuring there is something to suit all participants. Click HERE for details. | |
| Introducing the new EHC Portal: tracking the EHC assessment process with ease | Hertfordshire County Council Introducing the new EHC Portal: tracking the EHC assessment process with ease | Development of a new online EHC Portal for families, launching (in a phased way) from mid-October. The portal will make it easier for families to track the progress of their Education Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment. See link for further details. |
| Voices of Hertfordshire  Voices of Hertfordshire | Voices of Hertfordshire - YouTube Instagram: Voices of Hertfordshire @voicesofhertfordshire | Free online wellbeing groups for neurodivergent and/or disabled young people (ages 13-25) If you have any questions or want to have a chat about this group, please email Orla at orla.price@kids.org.uk . Orla can also set up meetings with young people 1:1 to provide any support or answer any questions to do with accessing the groups. View all of the wellbeing groups - Young People's Hub from KIDS |
| Hertfordshire Partner Organisations The Toolbox | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See link for current schedule of workshops including and full details/criteria: Understanding My ADHD and Autism • Hertfordshire Bee You – Autism and ADHD – No Diagnosis Required. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CathARTic – Autism and Me: 6 Week Creative Program COGS Neurodiversity App • NESSie – My World and Me – Autism/ADHD • SPACE – Understanding My Autism and ADHD |
| JustTalk | Mental health support for all children and young people in Hertfordshire (justtalkherts.org) | |



Understanding my Autism/ADHD

- Open to Hertfordshire children aged 7-16
- Post or Pre-diagnosis
- Online or face-to-face
- Visit: thetoolbox.mindler.co.uk

Cogs APP

- Young people aged 14+
- Providing support and information on Autism and ADHD
- No diagnosis required
- Free access
- To sign up, visit thetoolbox.mindler.co.uk

Digital Webinars

- On demand webinars
- Topics relating to Autism, ADHD and the SEND world
- Available on the Hertfordshire Local offer

Hertfordshire Neurodiversity Support Offer

The Toolbox

- Dedicated website for young people to gain support on ADHD and Autism
- Signposting to services and interventions in Hertfordshire
- Self-help tools and interactive livestreams available
- Visit: thetoolbox.mindler.co.uk

Toolbox Live Chat

- Receive real-time support and guidance for children and young people (CYP) with Autism or ADHD
- Access expert advice tailored to their feelings and concerns
- No diagnosis required

Support Hub

- No diagnosis required to access this support
- Available to parents, carers, and professionals
- Evening spots available to book
- Call or WhatsApp the team on 01277 833963

Neurodiversity Support Hub

For Parents, Carers and Professionals in Hertfordshire

We can offer support, signposting and guidance about a whole range of things including but not limited to:

- Understanding ADHD/Autism
- Distressed Behaviours
- Anxiety
- School

The phones are answered by our team of parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people

No Diagnosis Required

Are you a Parent, Carer or Professional?

01277 833963

supporthub@add-vance.org

Opening Hours

9AM - 1PM - Monday, Wednesday & Friday
9AM - 3PM - Tuesday & Thursday
7PM - 9PM - Wednesday (By Appt!)

Here to support, reach out for a listening ear

Mental Health Support for adults in Hertfordshire

Get Advice

Get Support

Self-Referral

Get Help

Seriously ill or injured dial 999 for the emergency services

Scan here for full contact details and opening hours

Working together for a healthier future

Support

Togetherall
www.togetherall.com

POWHER Advocacy
www.powher.net
Call: 0200 456 23 70

Crisis Bereavement Support
Call: 0800 808 10 77 | www.crisis.org.uk

Healthy Hub Hertfordshire
www.healthyhub.org.uk

Herts Mind Network Nightlight Crisis Helpline
Call: 01525 255291

One YMCA
Email: herts@oneymca.org
www.oneymca.org

Sign Health (BSL)
www.signhealth.org.uk

Self-Referral

BSL Talking Therapies
www.signhealth.org.uk

BSL Crisis Text Service
Text: DIAL to 83258

BSL Psychological Therapy
Text: 01924 419473 | Call: 01924 507096

Herts Mind Network Nightlight Crisis House Overnight Beds
Call: 01277 226191

HertHelp
Call: 0300 123 40 44 | www.hertshelp.net

Mind in Mid Herts
Call: 02023 208060
Email: admin@mindinmidscherts.org.uk

Help

Herts Mind Network Nightlight Crisis Cares
Call: 01277 256391

Community Pharmacy: Ask for AINE ACTION
Needed immediately: code word to enable victims of domestic abuse to access immediate help

Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
www.hpft.nhs.uk

NHS 111 option 2 for mental health services

You can contact your local hospital for further help

Mental Health Support for Hertfordshire Children and Young People
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/yourmentalhealth

Disclaimer: DSPL 1 provides this information in good faith, it is provided for information only, it does not imply that we support/endorse them. We aim to provide accurate and up to date information but cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss caused by any inaccuracy. We are not responsible for the privacy practices, recommended that you read the privacy policy of any site you visit, particularly if you are asked to give personal data.



Hertfordshire Children and Young People's Mental Health Service Directory



The services below provide a combination of early intervention and more specialist support for children and young people's mental health. Click the service name to be redirected to more information. **Referrals are either professional or self, you do not need both.**

- P** Professional referral required
- S** Self referral required
- Telephone service
- Digital support
- Includes support for age 0-5
- In person service

Chathealth 0-5

Chathealth 11-19

Children's Crisis Assessment and Treatment Team (C-CATT)

Children's Wellbeing Practitioners (5-19)
Low intensity community support

CHUMS Bereavement Support
Support following a suicide death

Educational Psychologists

Families First
All round extra family support

First Steps ED (0-18)
Help for eating difficulties and disorders

Health for Kids

Health for Teens

Herts Mind Network Counselling (5-19)

Just Talk

Lumi Nova (7-12)
App based game to manage worries and anxiety

Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) on site provision at selected schools

NHS Talking Therapies (16+)

PALMS

Safe Space
Includes emergency crisis support for schools

School Nurses and Duty Line

Services for Young People (13-17)

Signpost Creative Therapies (5-19)
Includes art, drama and play

Single Point Access (SPA)
Central portal for all referrals

Specialist CAMHS

Spectrum Family and Young People's Service
Alcohol and drug support

Step2 (0-19)

The Sandbox (10-25)
Information, iCBT, 1:1 online video therapy

The Toolbox (Neurodiverse)

Togetherall (16+)

WithYOUth (5-19)

Young Minds Parent Helpline

- Reaching developmental and emotional milestones, learning healthy social skills and how to cope when there are problems. Mentally healthy children have a positive quality of life and can function well at home, in school, and in their communities.
- Difficulties with normal life problems, poor self confidence, low self esteem, low aspirations, difficult family relationships, poor peer relationships, experimental substance misuse, bereavement, poor concentration, difficulty sustaining relationships, some worries, low mood.
- Many worries, high levels of anxiety, persistent low mood, body image concerns, behaviour puts peers at risk, persistent or high risk substance misuse, risk taking behaviour, unable to display empathy, difficulty coping with anger or frustration, bereavement by suicide/suspected suicide, withdrawn or unwilling to engage, disruptive or challenging behaviour, unable to maintain peer relationships (bullying, bullied or aggression etc).
- Mental health problems which are:
 - Persistent, complex and severe
 - Present in all environments (home, school, with peers)
 - Beyond a normal response to life's problems
- Deliberate self harm requiring hospital treatment, suicidal ideation with imminent plan and means, psychotic episode (hearing unexpected voices, unrealistic or racing thoughts not related to physical or substance misuse), intentional overdosing, persistent inability to engage with services or support offered, risk taking behaviour with no underlying mental health disorder, unresponsive to treatment and continuing to decline.

If you have any suggested changes to the directory, please email shelley.woods@hertfordshire.gov.uk June 2025 [Service Directory](#)



Hertfordshire Children and Young People's Neurodiversity Service Directory

The services below provide a combination of early intervention and more specialist neurodiversity support. Click the service name to be redirected to more information.

- Telephone support
- Online/virtual support
- Face to face support
- Referral required

Support for: Parents and carers Professionals Children and young people

[ADD-vance](#) – Support for families affected by ADHD, Autism or related conditions and the professionals who support them.

[Angels](#) - Support for families of autistic children and/or children who have ADHD (and those awaiting a diagnosis)

[Ask SAL](#) – A SEND Advice Line for Inclusion for SENCOs and other school professionals.

[Autism Herts](#) – Deliver a range of services to support Autistic people aged 16+ and their carers.

[Courses and workshops](#) - Parenting support for parents and carers

[Digital Webinars](#)– Online webinars for parents, carers, young people and professionals.

[DSPL \(Delivering Special Provision Locally\)](#) – There are 9 DSPL areas providing support to schools and families.

[Early Years SEN Health Visitors \(E&N Herts\)](#) - Support with understanding your child's needs, information on services and accessing support for families with children aged 0-4.

[Educational Psychologists](#) – Support for learning, development and emotional wellbeing of children and young people.

[ESC \(Education Support Centre\)](#) – Provide alternative education for children of statutory school age who have been permanently excluded or are at risk of permanent exclusion.

[Families in Focus](#) – Provide online therapeutic parenting courses.

[Family Support Workers \(DSPL/LSP\)](#) – Local support offered on a range of different topics.

[Homecare](#) – Support in the home for disabled children with complex needs.

[ISL \(Integrated Services for Learning\)](#) – Multi-professional service helping schools, setting and families to improve outcomes for children and young people.

[Lending Space](#) – An equipment lending library for families with children and young people with SEND. Also offer advice, a listening ear and signposting.

[Local Offer](#) – A Hertfordshire website advertising what special educational needs and disability services are available and who can access them.

[Nessie](#) – Offer therapeutic support to children and young people, training for professionals and webinars and support for parents and carers.

[Neurodiversity Support Hub](#) – An advice line offering support, signposting and guidance about a whole range of things relating to ADHD and Autism. WhatsApp chat also available.

[OSB \(Overnight Short Breaks\)](#) – A service for children with disabilities and complex health needs, offering them an overnight stay in a suitable setting, giving parents and carers a break from their caring responsibilities.

[Potential Kids](#) – Provides learning, social and sports opportunities to neurodivergent children and young people.

[SENDIASS](#) – An impartial advice and support service for parents, carers and their children.

[SEND SAS](#) – SEND specialist advisory & support service offer education support for schools / colleges and families.

[Short Breaks](#) - A scheme offering children and young people with SEND the opportunity to spend time out with others socialising and doing fun activities.

[Space](#) - Offering a variety of support for families of neurodivergent children and young people.

[The Toolbox](#) – Online support for neurodiverse children and young people. Includes gaming livestreams, live text chat options and other resources.

[Understanding my Autism/ADHD](#) – Support for autistic children and young people and those with ADHD. Includes online and in person workshops and a downloadable app offered by a variety of providers.



First Steps ED

Nutritionists supporting one to one sessions at First Steps ED Wellbeing Workshop, Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID) Support Group, Binge Eating Workshops

[Workshops & Support Groups for Eating Disorders | First Steps ED](#)

- Body Image Workshop
- Boys and Men Workshop

- ARFID Support Workshop (Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder Binge Eating Workshop)
- Young People’s Wellbeing Workshop
- Finding Peace with Food Workshop

See [website](#) for full details



www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/youthmentalhealth



FOLLOW

Help develop Speech, Language & Communication Skills at home [FOLLOW | Linktree](#)

Introducing the FOLLOW campaign! A very simple and easy to use set of strategies that parents and carers can use with their little ones to help develop speech, language and communication skills at home. For more information, please use the link below. <https://linktr.ee/EYFOLLOW>



You can make a referral to these services by following the below links or visiting our website www.hct.nhs.uk

How to make a referral to new Herts counselling and creative therapies services



New countywide services for Hertfordshire children & young people ages 5-19th birthday begin 1 April 2025

Hertfordshire’s new county-wide counselling (previously known as community counselling) and creative therapies services open for referrals on 1 April 2025 for children and young people from the age of five, up to their 19th birthdays who are registered with a Hertfordshire GP.

Both services accept self-referrals, as well as referrals via professionals. They will both be offering groups, one-to-one, online and in person options, at various locations throughout the county, based on the specific needs of each child/young person.

How do I know whether counselling or creative

therapies would be more suitable for a child or young person?

Different therapies work for different people at different times.

Counselling can work well for children and young people who feel able to open-up to a registered counsellor about things that may be quite personal or difficult for them to talk about, including their feelings and behaviour. Creative therapies may be more suitable for those who find it easier to understand and express themselves through creative art forms, such as play or drama with a registered creative therapist.

If you’re still unsure, please don’t worry! As part of their assessment process, Hertfordshire Mind Network (counselling provider) and Signpost (creative therapies provider) will consider which type of therapy may be most suitable for a child or young person’s needs.

Find out more and make a referral for:

- Counselling from Hertfordshire Mind Network (link/information coming soon)
- *Creative therapies from Signpost) (link/information coming soon)

*Creative therapies is a newly funded service in Hertfordshire from 1 April 2025, with a limited number of funded spaces available for children and young people who might benefit from it.

Hertfordshire’s CYPMHS system will be closely monitoring demand for creative therapies against Signpost’s capacity, as well as the outcomes for the children and young people who use this new service.

Please bear with us during this information-gathering period and please also ensure that children, young people and families are aware of and using the wide range of other Herts CYPMHS whilst they are

waiting: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/youthmentalhealth



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| SPACE Herts | <i>Charity supporting families of children and young people who are neurodivergent (Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia, Tourette's and other neurodiverse conditions).</i> | |
| Find out about volunteering at SPACE Tickets, Mon 21 Jul 2025 at 18:30 Eventbrite | | Find out about volunteering at SPACE |
| Understanding Tics and Tourette's Tickets, Thu 4 Sep 2025 at 18:30 Eventbrite | | Tics and Tourette's |
| Access Arrangements Workshop Tickets, Mon 8 Sep 2025 at 18:30 Eventbrite | | Access Arrangements |
| Neurodiversity in Girls and Women (ADHD and Autism) - a 4 week course Tickets, Tue 9 Sep 2025 at 18:30 Eventbrite | | Neurodiversity in Girls/Women ADHD/Autism |
| Sensory Signs, Signals and Solutions Workshop Tickets, Wed 10 Sep 2025 at 18:30 Eventbrite | | Sensory Signs, Signals, Solutions |
| ADHD in Girls and Women Tickets, Thu 11 Sep 2025 at 10:00 Eventbrite | | ADHD in Girls/Women |
| Understanding Behaviour as Communication: A Therapeutic Approach Tickets, Fri 12 Sep 2025 at 10:00 Eventbrite | | Behaviour as Communication |
| Navigating the SEND World Tickets, Mon 15 Sep 2025 at 18:30 Eventbrite | | Navigating the SEND world |
| FOR FURTHER ACTIVITIES AND SESSIONS SEE: SPACE HERTFORDSHIRE Events Eventbrite | | Additional Activities |



| | |
|---|---|
| Autism Hertfordshire | |
| Evening Groups | <i>Evening social groups for adults 18+. In St Albans and Stevenage. Wednesdays, every 2 weeks – contact 01727 743246 orenquiries@autismherts.org for details</i> |
| Daytime Groups | <i>Community based sessions where attendees can take advantage of regular walks or lunches in local cases with their peer group. Supported by two staff members, across Herts. contact 01727 743246 orenquiries@autismherts.org for details</i> |
| Helpline | Our telephone Helpline is open 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday for information, advice, and guidance on all aspects of Autistic Spectrum Conditions and associated problems. The telephone number is 01727 743246. We provide advice and support to autistic individuals, parents, carers, partners, and professionals. If you reach the answerphone, please leave your name, a short message and your contact number and we will call you back. Alternatively, you can e-mail us with your query at enquiries@autismherts.org . We aim to respond to any calls and/or emails within 48 hours of any working weekday. If responses are delayed, it may be because we are receiving a high volume of calls, but we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as we can. |
| Post-Diagnostic Support | There are various types of support you might want to explore after getting a diagnosis. You may need to approach/and or be supported by approaching professionals and local services for this support. You will be offered up to eight one-to-one sessions either online or in-person with a member of staff from Autism Hertfordshire. |
| ADD-Vance | <i>A registered charity with a team of over 20 dedicated trainers, coaches, admin staff and volunteers – supporting families of children with ADHD and/or Autism. Some HCC Funded workshops are recorded to enable you to watch at a convenient time.</i> |
| Identifying ADHD and/or Autism - FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP Tickets, Mon 8 Sep 2025 at 10:00 Eventbrite | Identifying ADHD and/or Autism |
| Understanding ADHD & Autism for Parents/Carers of Girls- FREE 6 WK COURSE Tickets, Tue 9 Sep 2025 at 10:00 Eventbrite | Understanding ADHD & Autism for Parents/Carers of Girls – 6wk course |
| Understanding ADHD and Autism in the Teen Years-FREE ONLINE 6 WEEK COURSE Tickets, Tue 9 Sep 2025 at 10:00 Eventbrite | Understanding ADHD and Autism in the Teen Years – 6wk course |
| Understanding ADHD and Autism in the Primary Years - FREE 6 WEEK COURSE Tickets, Mon 15 Sep 2025 at 19:00 Eventbrite | Understanding ADHD/Autism – Primary Years 6 wk course |
| Understanding ADHD and Autism for Dads - FREE 6 WEEK COURSE IN ST ALBANS Tickets, Wed 17 Sep 2025 at 19:00 Eventbrite | Understanding ADHD/Autism for Dads – 6wk course |



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| Angels Support Group | | <i>Angels is charity that supports families of autistic children and/or children who have ADHD (and those awaiting diagnosis).</i> | |
| Tuesdays – Zoom 10am to 12pm | VENUE: Letchworth Partnership Pod, Northfields. | Thursdays – Stevenage 10am to 12pm Home Start : 5 Bedwell Park, SG1 1NB | Thursdays – Zoom 7:30pm to 8:30pm |
| | 17 July – Meet Up and Chat | | |
| Podcasts: Podcasts - Angels Support Group | | Support Groups and workshops, Meet up and Chat www.angelssupportgroup.org.uk | |



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| Autism Central | <i>Autism Central aims to make it easier to learn more about autism and services available to you.</i> | | |
| Resources | Designed to make it easier, signposts to information on wide range of topics around autism and support that is available from Autism Central, their partner organisations and other trusted sources. | One-to-one | Talk to your hub for a one-to-one chat to help find the information and services available in your area. |
| Events | Talk to people who share similar experiences by joining a workshop, coffee morning or virtual meet up. | | |



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| Supporting Links | | <i>A local Social Enterprise, providing parenting support through courses, workshops and 1:1 mentoring of parents and children.</i> | |
| Workshops: We have a number of single session workshops for parents of children with diagnosed or suspected ASD and or ADHD. These are funded by Herts County Council so are free for parents who live or go to school in Herts to attend. | | Use the Course ID (See below) to book your place Booking Essential: bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk or 07512 709556 See website for flyers and links: New What's On (supportinglinks.co.uk) | |
| ASD & ADHD RESPONDING TO ANGER | ASD & ADHD: Responding to Anger (781) For parents/carers in Herts. Registration, Tue 23 Sep 2025 at 09:30 Eventbrite | | Responding to Anger |
| ASD & ADHD The Teenage Years | Talking ASD & ADHD: The Teenage Years (782) For parents/carers in Herts. Registration, Mon 13 Oct 2025 at 19:30 Eventbrite | | Teenage Years |
| ASD & ADHD School Avoidance | Talking ASD & ADHD: School Avoidance(783) For parents/carers in Herts. Registration, Mon 10 Nov 2025 at 19:30 Eventbrite | | School Avoidance |
| ASD & ADHD Tech Use | Talking ASD & ADHD: Tech Use (784) For parents/carers in Herts. Registration, Mon 24 Nov 2025 at 19:30 Eventbrite | | Tech Use |
| Talking Teens 6 Weekly Sessions for parents/carers of children aged 12-19 | NEW DATES Tuesdays 7:45pm to 9:15pm 16, 23, 30 Sept, 7, 14, 21 Oct Online Course ID 778 Thursdays 7:45pm to 9:15pm 6, 13, 20, 27 Nov, 4, 11 Dec Online Course ID 777 | | Talking Teens |
| Talking Dads/Male Carers 6 Weekly sessions for Dads/Male Carers of all ages | NEW DATES Wednesdays 7:45pm to 9:15pm 17, 24 Sept, 1, 8, 15, 22 Oct Online Course ID 779 Wednesdays 7:45pm to 9:15pm 5, 12, 19, 26 Nov, 3, 10 Dec Online Course ID 780 | | Talking Dads/Male Carers |
| Talking Additional Needs (no diagnosis needed) A 6-week group for parents and carers of children with any additional need from 2-19. | NEW DATES Wednesdays 9:45am to 11:15am Sept 17, 24, Oct 1, 8, 15, 22 via Zoom Online Course ID 770 | NEW DATES Wednesdays 8pm to 9:30pm Face to Face 5, 12, 19, 26 Nov 3, 10 Dec COURSE ID 771 | Talking Additional Needs |
| NEW Talking Anxiety in Teens 6 weekly sessions for parents/carers of children aged 12-18 | NEW DATES Tuesdays , 7:45pm to 9:30pm 16, 23, 30 Sept, 7, 14, 21 Oct online Course ID 776 | | Talking anxiety in teens |
| Talking Anger in Teens 6 weekly sessions for parents/carers of children aged 12-18 | NEW DATES 4, 11, 18, 25 Nov, 2, 9 Dec Online Course ID 776 | | Talking Anger in teens |



Delivering Special Provision Locally

Parents, Carers and Young People
Weekly Round Up Issue: 143
16/07/2025

DSPL 1
(North Herts)



dspl1admin@wransom.herts.sch.uk
(please email if you need the flyers or further information)
[Updates and Resources \(nhdspl.org.uk\)](http://updatesandresources.nhdspl.org.uk) Find us on Facebook and Twitter

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| <p>Talking Families 6 weekly sessions for parents and carers of children aged 0-12</p> | <p>NEW DATES Wednesdays 8pm to 9:30pm 17, 24 Sept, 1, 8, 15, 22 Oct Online Course ID 774 Thursdays 9:45am to 11:15am 18, 25 Sept 2, 9, 16, 23 Oct Online Course ID 772 Tuesday 8pm to 9:30pm 4, 11, 18, 25 Nov 2, 9 Dec Online Course ID 773</p> | <p>Talking Families</p> |
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| Families in Focus | | <i>Hertfordshire based community interest company, which provides training, information and therapeutic and emotional support to parents.</i> |
| Email to book: bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk | | |
| Transforming family life through empathy - helping families to build strong family connections A proven therapeutic approach for parents of children aged 3 to 11 yrs, to increase positive family communication to manage behaviours that challenge, reducing behaviours that challenge and building your family's emotional wellbeing 3 x 2 hour sessions Email to book: bookings@familiesinfocus.co.uk | | Transforming family life through empathy for Parents of children with SEND 4-10 years More dates coming soon in March 2025 Current SEND courses – Families in Focus |
| A complete guide to parenting children with Autism & ADHD FREE 10 week course for parents living in Hertfordshire and parenting a child with Autism or ADHD (with diagnosis or awaiting assessment) aged 2 to 11. Gain a greater understanding and answer the question 'why does my child do that?' Learn a range of strategies and solutions, to better manage behaviours that challenge. Understanding sensory needs of children. Increase understanding of children's common sleep issues. | NEW DATES Tuesdays 9:30am to 11:30am OR 6:30pm to 8:30pm 9, 16, 23, 30 September, 7, 14 October & 4, 11, 18 November | A Complete Guide to parenting children with Autism and ADHD |
| Handling anger of primary aged children with Autism or ADHD FREE six-week course is funded by Hertfordshire County Council and FREE for parents of primary-aged children with ADHD and/or Autism living in Hertfordshire. Online, interactive course for parents provides practical support to understand why children with Autism or ADHD react with anger and provides proven techniques to reduce angry meltdowns and increase emotional regulation for the whole family. | NEW DATES Wednesdays 9:30am to 11:30am OR 12:30pm to 2pm OR 6:30pm to 8:30pm 10, 17, 24 September, 1, 8, 15 October | Handling anger Primary aged children (Autism/ADHD) |



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| Family Lives | <p>Positive Co-Parenting of Neurodiverse Children – 8 Week online facilitated group</p>  <p>This programme is designed specifically for parents living together or apart, who are facing conflicts and struggling to find common ground in raising their neurodiverse child. This is a valuable opportunity to enhance relationships, strengthen parenting skills and create a more harmonious home environment.</p> <p>Who should attend?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents who are experiencing conflicts and challenges due to the neurodiversity of their child. • Parents who want to improve communication and build stronger partnership in parenting and co-parenting their neurodiverse child. • Parents seeking guidance, support, and practical strategies to navigate the unique challenges of raising a neurodiverse child. <p>For more information or make a referral, scan the QR code, email services@familylives.org.uk or call 0204 522 8700 or 0204 522 8699.</p> | |
|  | <p>For more information, please contact Louise or Lesley on 0204 522 8700/8701, or email services@familylives.org.uk. Please scan our QR code for our referral form.</p> | |
| Herts Mind Network | <p>Hertfordshire Mind Network</p> | |
| Meeting Places | <p>Meeting Places Hertfordshire Mind Network Online and Face to Face drop in groups</p> | |
| Music Groups | <p>Music Groups Hertfordshire Mind Network Online Music Group</p> | |
| LGBTQ+ | <p>LGBTQ+ Group Hertfordshire Mind Network Online group for adults – safe space, peer to peer support, advice and information, build social networks</p> | |



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| Children's Wellbeing Practitioners | HCT Children's Wellbeing Practitioners Events Eventbrite Upcoming courses: Emotional Wellbeing and Regulation, Emotional Wellbeing Workshop, Sleep Workshop, Developing Your Child's Emotional Literacy | Check for available courses, please note they book up quickly |
| Emotional Wellbeing Workshop (For young people 11 - 16) Tickets, Thu 31 Jul 2025 at 10:00 Eventbrite | | Emotional wellbeing |
| Sleep Workshop (Child and Adolescent) Tickets, Tue 5 Aug 2025 at 18:00 Eventbrite | | Sleep Workshop |
| Supporting your Child's Self-esteem and Resilience Workshop Tickets, Thu 7 Aug 2025 at 10:00 Eventbrite | | Child's Self-esteem and Resilience |
| Developing Your Child's Emotional Literacy Tickets, Tue 12 Aug 2025 at 10:00 Eventbrite | | Child's Emotional Literacy |
| Child General Emotional Wellbeing and Regulation Tips for Parents/Carers Tickets, Tue 19 Aug 2025 at 18:00 Eventbrite | | Emotional Wellbeing/Regulation |
| Adolescent Self-esteem and Resilience Workshop Tickets, Tue 2 Sep 2025 at 18:00 Eventbrite | | Adolescent self-esteem and resilience |
| Emotional Wellbeing Workshop (For young people 11 - 16) Tickets, Thu 18 Sep 2025 at 18:00 Eventbrite | | Emotional Wellbeing (11-16) |
| Children's Wellbeing Practitioners Service Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust (hct.nhs.uk) Pre-recorded webinar, workshops for parents / carers and young people and links to the guidance docs. | | School Avoidance |
| HCT Children's Wellbeing Practitioners Events - 8 Upcoming Activities and Tickets Eventbrite | Upcoming Workshops: Sleep (Child/Adolescent) General Emotional Wellbeing and Regulation Self Esteem and Resilience Emotional Literacy | |



| CARERS IN HERTS | |
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| Carers In Herts Evening Phone Support | Evening Phone Appointments available 5:30pm to 7:30pm on Wednesdays Book now: contact@carersinherts.org.uk / 01992 58 69 69 |
| Monthly Support Group | 7pm to 9pm via zoom Children Young People’s Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) - Carers In Herts contact@carersinherts.org.uk |
| Young Carers | See link for contact and links |



| NHS Hertfordshire Talking Therapies | | Primary Care Mental Health Update |
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| Student Support | Starting Collect/University is an amazing experience, full of incredible moments and opportunities, it can sometimes feel challenging. Please see link for self-referral for support available. | Referral HPFT IAPT Services (hpft-talkingtherapies.nhs.uk) |
| ADHD Awareness Month | Understanding ADHD and low self-esteem webinar. Most people with ADHD can experience low self-esteem because of difficulties in different areas of their life. These difficulties may arise because of the experiences that come with ADHD, such as forgetfulness, poor concentration, extreme restlessness. | Understanding ADHD and low self-esteem HPFT IAPT Services (hpft-talkingtherapies.nhs.uk) |
| NEW | NEW – What is Dynamic Interpersonal Therapy (DIT) Animation video What is Dynamic Interpersonal Psychotherapy (DIT)? | |
| Support for Long Term Conditions | People living with long term physical health conditions such as diabetes, chronic pain, COPD, or chronic heart disease may face various challenges across many areas of their life. Resources and Self-help HPFT IAPT Services (hpft-talkingtherapies.nhs.uk) | |
| Living well with persistent pain | Living well with persistent pain HPFT IAPT Services (hpft-talkingtherapies.nhs.uk) | |
| Long Covid: Moving Forward | Long COVID: Moving forwards HPFT IAPT Services (hpft-talkingtherapies.nhs.uk) | |
| Nature and Wellbeing SAD Seasonable Affective Disorder | Nature and Wellbeing HPFT IAPT Services | |
| Webinars Diabetes and emotional wellbeing | Diabetes and Emotional Wellbeing HPFT IAPT Services (hpft-talkingtherapies.nhs.uk) | |
| Living Well with a Long-term Physical Health Condition | Living Well with a Long-term Physical Health Condition HPFT IAPT Services (hpft-talkingtherapies.nhs.uk) | |



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| NESSie | | <i>Support the positive mental health of children and young people 0-25 years. 1-1 and group therapies for children and young people and webinars and support to parents and carers.</i> | |
| NESSie is funded by HCC to support parents/carers of children and young people with emotional and mental health issues. The aim of this work is to help parents/carers develop a positive and more confident approach to supporting their young person, whilst offering a chance to gain peer support; useful strategies and practical tools. | | FREE online and face-to-face workshops on a range of mental health issues that affect children and young people. Parent Support Line 07932 651319 (Wednesdays 9am to 12pm or by appointment) Private moderated Facebook support groups. support advice sessions. Peer support groups: a confidential group, where parents will have an opportunity to share their experiences, support each other through challenges and identify coping strategies. For more information: Podio | |
| Webinar Playback | Supporting a Child Struggling to Attend School | Nessie Public Booking Platform V3.0 (procfu.com) | |
| NESSie | | <i>Support the positive mental health of children and young people 0-25 years. 1-1 and group therapies for children and young people and webinars and support to parents and carers.</i> | |
| 'My World & Me'TM is a 12-week group programme for children and young people aged 7-16 years who live in Hertfordshire. This group is run by two NESSie Autism/LD specialists and aims to support your child/young person to have an opportunity to meet other young people of similar age and experiences. Focusing on celebrating your child's strengths, this group aims to be fun whilst supporting confidence, independence, and resilience. NESSie is proud to be neurodiverse affirmative with the majority of our team having lived experience. Please note that spaces are limited to 8 participants per group. Upon receiving your booking information, you will be contacted by a member of our team for a chat. If your requested group is at capacity or a need for alternative support is identified, you will be offered an alternative group or signposted to alternative support. Completing the booking does not guarantee a space on the chosen group. | | Current Dates: My World and Me - Nessie | |



EARLY YEARS – SEND GROUPS

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| <p>NORTH HERTS FAMILY CENTRE</p> <p>SEND Drop In - Free Drop In</p> <p>Parent & Toddler Groups North Herts & Stevenage</p> | <p>Toddler Group: Arise and Shine Letchworth Garden City Church, The Icknield Centre, Icknield Way, Letchworth, SG6 1EF Tuesdays from 10.00am to 11.15am (term time)</p> |  |
| | <p>SEND Playgroup At the British Schools Museum Mondays 1pm to 2:30pm (ages 0-5) no booking necessary FREE The Café at The Museum, The British Schools Museum, 41 Queen Street, Hitchin SG4 9TS</p> | |
| | <p>Broadwater Family Centre, Longmeadow Primary School, Oaks Cross, Stevenage SG2 8LT Thursdays 10am to 11:15 (all year)</p> | |
| | <p>Royston & Villages Family Centre, Roman Way First School, Burns Road, Royston SG8 5EQ Fridays 9:30am to 10:45am</p> | |
| <p>SENsational Active Tots with Stevenage FC (ages 1-5)</p> | <p>Looking for somewhere to run off a bit of steam? The Family Centre Service alongside Stevenage FC are running new SENsational Active Tots Sessions for 1-5 year olds. These sessions are all about bringing physical activity to life through various sports and challenges. Taking place at Fairlands Valley Park in Stevenage and FREE for the first 8 weeks (£3.50 thereafter). Wednesdays 10am to 10:45am, joinin.online</p> | |

