

### Overview update

Our strategic plan is aligned with the county. We allocate 80% of our budget on strategic priorities (work streams) and 20% on local initiatives. The current work streams are: SEMH, Specialist Provision, Targeted SEND Support Services, Speech, Language and Communication Services, Early years SEND and Post 16 SEND and preparing for adulthood. As part of our regular Management Group Meetings we continue to listen to the needs that arise locally and try and respond to them.

This year our main focus is on SEMH. We are continuing to fund NESSie for another year (details of provision on Page 5). In addition, we are also part funding: STEPs training for targeted settings, family support workers in each area and Elklan training for Early Years.

We are also continuing to provide training for parents and professionals along with funding the termly SENCO SEND briefings.

Alongside this we are also working closely with both Primary Behaviour Services, NESSie and ISL in order to help provide the most appropriate support for our highest needs pupils and the schools they are in.

**Emma Russell, Delivery Manager**

### In this issue:

Overview Update	[page 1]
"Speed Dating"	[page 1]
SENCO and FSW Forums	[page 2]
Celebrating Good Practice	[page 3 & 4]
NESSie	[page 5]
Website	[page 6]
DSPL 1 Contacts and Local Links	[page 7]

### "SPEED DATING" – Primary to Secondary Transition Meetings

Not everyone likes the name but most know what it means to us. The transition "speed-dating" meetings have been in place for a couple of years. They provide the opportunity for Primary and Secondary SENCOs to discuss pupils transitioning to Secondary for the following September. Please note these meetings are specifically for SEND needs, any other needs the pupil may have will be discussed at a separate time. Make sure you have booked your time with Emma Russell, Delivery Manager for DSPL 1: [nhdsp1manager@wilshire.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nhdsp1manager@wilshire.herts.sch.uk)

**Parent Feedback – Autism & Girls** – *Autism – I just wanted to thank you for your post 'Do you know this girl?' As a result, my adult daughter's life is transformed. She is well on the pathway to formal diagnosis, and has been able to communicate her needs to her employer who have been wonderful. As a result my daughter and I have a completely different way to understand her, her behaviours and how to support her. Thank you so much!*

### SENCO Forums & SEND Support

The SENCO Forums have been in place for a few years and have provided a space for networking, updates and training. Our aim to ensure that the Forums are a good use of valuable time. Thank you for your feedback following our survey last term this has helped us shape the forums going forward.

#### Key Changes:

##### Time

12:30pm to 3:30pm

12:30pm to 1:30pm –local updates & networking

1:30pm to 3:30pm Hertfordshire SEND Briefing

##### When

One Forum per term

##### Who

SENCOs plus any member of staff supporting children.

##### Booking

You will need to reserve your place. All booking will be through the website.



#### Early Years Support

We are aware that it is not always possible or easy for our PVI and Nursery Settings to come along to a SENCO Forum. There are Early Years Network and Cluster meetings that take place. A DSPL 1 representative attends the Cluster meetings. Please contact Geraldine Stygal, Early Years ISL Inclusion Development Officer: [Geraldine.Stygal@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Geraldine.Stygal@hertfordshire.gov.uk) for more information.

### FSW Forums

Family/Parent/School Support Workers

#### Visitors this year

**NESSie Co-ordinator – Becky Wilburn** has joined us for many of the forums providing advice and guidance.

**SADA (Stevenage Against Domestic Abuse)** have provided an update on their services and DA Champion Training. We were also joined the **Child Wellbeing Team** who talked about the service they offer.

We will continue to run the forums each half term.

**You will need to book your place on the Forums through the website.**



## Celebrating Good Practice

We know all the hard work you do in DSPL1 to support children with SEND in your settings and how creative you are in the way you help them reach their full potential. We want to help celebrate and hear about your good practice!

Starting this term we will be looking for a setting to feature in our termly DSPL 1 newsletter.

*Has your setting got a great safe place for your pupils?*

*Does a member of staff go above and beyond for those pupils with SEND?*

*Have you found success and progress using one of the Nessie interventions? (My Time, My World and Me, Brick Club ...)*

*Have you had a successful transition story with a pupil?*

*Are you a professional that has seen great practice in a school that you feel should be celebrated?*

*Are you a SENCo/Autism Lead/Mental health lead that would like to nominate a colleague from a different setting that has supported you?*

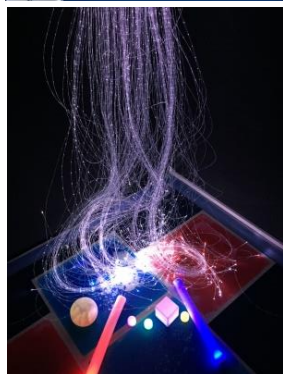
Email ([nhdspl-autism@wilshire.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nhdspl-autism@wilshire.herts.sch.uk)) telling us why we should consider your nomination. You will get a visit from one of our team where we would like to take a photo and/or interview a member of staff/pupil/parent. The winner will get published in our newsletter (settings can remain anonymous if they so wish) and receive a treat for your staff.

Deadline for nominations is 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

# Spring Term Winner!

**Well done to all the parents and staff at St John's School who worked tirelessly to create two fabulous spaces for pupils with sensory needs!**



"It is no secret that our budget is in deficit and our building was not well equipped for children who may have difficulties with sensory processing. Last July, we asked for funding through the Tesco Bags for Help scheme and managed to win first place, giving us over £3000 in order to transform under-used and badly designed rooms, into safe spaces for the children on our SEN list.

We have now created 2 separate spaces within the school. One of them is a very small dark room (that used to be an old sink and washing up area!) which has now been transformed using a lot of black paint, fibre optic lighting, a colour change bubble wall and pressure tiles on the floor. This is called the Escape and children love having this area of peace and quiet to calm and use the light up toys. We ensure that other children also have access to this space, so we use glow boards with small phonics groups where the TA can teach them new sounds in a fun and novel environment. We have been very lucky that parents have given up their time to help the SEN children in our school by painting the wall, sorting plumbing out and laying flooring. They really have pulled together.

The second space we have created is the Rainbow Room. This is a break out SEN hub and also my office space. Prior to the Tesco funding, my office was very small and if any of my SEN children were having a crisis or experiencing emotional difficulties, they had very little room to express themselves or to relax and self-soothe. Now we have a dedicated room where parents and staff have helped to build a bright and interesting sensory wall. We have bean bags, rugs and even a hanging pod chair. On the wall, children have painted canvases with messages on about how to use calming strategies when they are in the room. They won this privilege by entering a competition and staff chose their favourite pictures to be turned into paintings. It is also a fantastic space to take our Nurture group so they can relax on the rug together and build their Lego in our Brick Masters club."

**Kat England, SENCo**

# NESSie

## North herts Emotional Support in schools ServIcE

### Supporting Positive Mental Health in Schools Recognition, Effective Management & Early Intervention

We are pleased to announce that DSPL 1 will be funding NESSie during 2019/2020. DSPL 1 has funded NESSie over the last four years. During this time many staff have been trained in school interventions; My World & Me and My Time, anxiety, bereavement and assessment. There have also been a number of bespoke pieces of work carried out to help support schools in unforeseen circumstances. A number of parent workshops have provided parent support with anxiety and bereavement. In addition to this the links created by Rachel and the NESSie team have meant some schools have benefited from IAPT therapist provision.

#### Therapists

The primary focus for 2019-20 is - Early Years and Primary

- Becky Wilburn—Co-ordinator coordinator and high end needs targeted therapy targeted therapy
- Natasha Clark – dramatherapist
- Sarah Booth – art therapist

The referral criteria and process will be sent to SENCOs over the next few weeks. There is specific criteria for referrals.

#### NESSie will also provide:

- Professional Training
- Parent Training/Forums
- Staff Forums on a termly basis
- Attend SENCO and Family Support Worker Forums as directed by DSPL 1.
- Available to secondary and post-16 provisions on case by case basis.

**If you have any enquiries please contact DSPL 1 Delivery Manager, Emma Russell :**

**[nhdsp1manager@wilshire.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nhdsp1manager@wilshire.herts.sch.uk) or call on 07958 421871.**

*Additional provision within North Herts sourced by NESSie. Please note this is not part of the Gold Service Level provision.*

- 3 x ASD IAPT therapists. These have been placed in schools where a need has been identified through the work and audits carried out by NESSie. The schools are responsible for supporting the therapists in their placements. Schools; Royston Academy, Garden City Academy, Hartsfield.
- 0.5 x 2 Early Years therapists. These will be placed by Karen Powell, Family Service Centre. North Herts
- Parenting Group for conduct disorder. This will be targeted piece of work taking place in June. Stevenage but open for referrals from behaviour team and schools in DSPL1



**Website:**

**[www.nessieined.com](http://www.nessieined.com)**





[www.nhdspl.org.uk](http://www.nhdspl.org.uk)

The website is being updated. Please ensure your setting has a link to this for useful updates.

We hope that you have found the booking system easy to use. Going forward we will be asking you to reserve your place on SENCO, FSW and NESSie forums. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.



**Does your  
school have  
a link to our  
website?**

**All training and forum opportunities will be emailed to schools and to parents/carers via schools. Please visit the website to see what is available and book your place.**

We have facilitated a number of training and forum events this year and the attendance has been good. This has included:

**CAMHS – Youth Mental Health First Aid**

**Supporting children with bereavement and loss.**

**PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance)**

**Speech and Language**

**Domestic Abuse Champion Training**

**SpLD Assessments**

**Brick Club**




**Anxiety for parents/carers of children with Autism.**

**Transition for parents/carers of children with SEND in Year 5.**

### North Herts DSPL Contacts & Enquiries

Tony Plunkett – Lead School and Chair <a href="mailto:dspl1lead@wymondley.herts.sch.uk">dspl1lead@wymondley.herts.sch.uk</a>	Emma Russell – Delivery Manager <a href="mailto:nhdsplmanager@wilshere.herts.sch.uk">nhdsplmanager@wilshere.herts.sch.uk</a>
Charlotte Field – SEND Lead <a href="mailto:nhdspl-autism@wilshere.herts.sch.uk">nhdspl-autism@wilshere.herts.sch.uk</a>	Debbie Robins – Administrator <a href="mailto:nhdspl@wilshere.herts.sch.uk">nhdspl@wilshere.herts.sch.uk</a> <b>07527 828 477</b>

### Local Links

 <b>DSPL</b>   Delivering Special Provision Locally Achieving quality outcomes <a href="http://www.nhdspl.org.uk/">http://www.nhdspl.org.uk/</a>	
 Hertfordshire's <b>SEND</b> Local Offer Services for children and young people with SEND <a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/Local-Offer/The-Hertfordshire-Local-Offer.aspx">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/Local-Offer/The-Hertfordshire-Local-Offer.aspx</a>	
 Families First Early help, brighter futures	<p>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.</p> <p><a href="https://directory.hertfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/familiesfirst.page?familiesfirstchannel=0">https://directory.hertfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/familiesfirst.page?familiesfirstchannel=0</a></p>
<b>Hertfordshire SEND Information, Advice &amp; Support Service (SENDIASS)</b>	<p>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 <a href="mailto:sendiass@hertfordshire.gov.uk">sendiass@hertfordshire.gov.uk</a>. Find out more at</p> <p><a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/support/sendiasp">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/support/sendiasp</a>  <a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/support/sendiasp.aspx">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/support/sendiasp.aspx</a></p>
<b>The KIDS East and West HUBs</b>	<p><b>01923 676549</b> 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. <a href="http://www.kids.org.uk/hub">www.kids.org.uk/hub</a> HARC (Hertfordshire Branch)</p>
<b>Angels Support Group</b>	<p>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 <a href="mailto:info@angelsupportgroup.org.uk">info@angelsupportgroup.org.uk</a> 01462 685150</p> <p><a href="http://www.angelsupportgroup.org.uk">http://www.angelsupportgroup.org.uk</a></p>
<b>ADD-vance</b>	<p>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) &amp; 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. <a href="mailto:herts@add-vance.org">herts@add-vance.org</a> <a href="http://www.add-vance.org">www.add-vance.org</a></p>
<b>Up On Downs</b>	<p>Monthly Family and Friends meetings are held in Hitchin. There are also training events across the County. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Sande or Jan at: <a href="mailto:enquiries.nhdowns@yahoo.co.uk">enquiries.nhdowns@yahoo.co.uk</a> or call 01462 630 459. <a href="http://www.upondowns.co.uk">www.upondowns.co.uk</a></p>
<b>Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database</b>	<p>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.</p> <p><a href="https://handnews.hertfordshire.gov.uk/issue-48-september-2018/news-this-month/welcome-to-your-september-hand-news">https://handnews.hertfordshire.gov.uk/issue-48-september-2018/news-this-month/welcome-to-your-september-hand-news</a></p>
<b>Parents and Carers – How can you get involved?</b>	<p>Hertfordshire Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI) is the parent carer forum for Hertfordshire &amp; 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 &amp; young people with SEND (Special educational needs and disabilities)</p> <p><a href="http://www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/">http://www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/</a></p>