

### DSPL 1 Lead Role

Dear Colleagues, after two and a half years I am stepping down in my role of Lead School for DSPL 1. It has been a difficult decision to make and I have enjoyed every minute of the role and am proud of how DSPL 1 has developed. I will still be very much involved and plan to sit on several working groups to share my experience and hopefully continue to make a difference.

The team I work with are incredibly committed and passionate people and I have every faith that children and young people and their families will continue to be supported.

I would like to wish a warm welcome to Tony Plunkett, the Headteacher at Wymondley School who will be taking over from me from September 2018. We will be ensuring a smooth transition over this summer term to ensure services and provision are not affected.

**Diane Frainer**

## DSPL 1 Autism Update

### Resource Library

Our resource library is finally up and running! Here are a few quotes from settings that have borrowed some of the resources

*"So the tent and light resources have been a great hit. For some children it has been a lovely respite from the sensory overload they experience in a class of 30; for others it has been a chance to develop their attention and focus skills."*



*"The resource library has been really useful in being able to borrow items that we **think** might work for that child but not having to spend our budget before we have seen that they **actually** work for that child."*

*"We have had great success with the desk divider in keeping one of our children in the classroom environment more, as they are less distracted, yet still feel involved."*



The resources and books are available for all settings so please email [nhdspl-autism@wilshire.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nhdspl-autism@wilshire.herts.sch.uk) if you would like to borrow anything. Brochures are available to view on our website.

Thank you for your continued support!

*Charlotte Field*

### Woolgrove School Training

Woolgrove School have provided a number of training sessions and workshops for SENCOS, Teachers and TAs.



<b>Sign Language</b>	A practical workshop focusing on signing to aid communication for pupils with a wide range of special educational needs.																				
<b>Solution Circle</b>	Are you “stuck” with a pupil with SEND? Would you like a chance to share and discuss the problem with a view to generating ideas and actions? Come along to our first Woolgrove facilitated “Solutions Circle”. Share your problems with other professionals who may be able to help. <i>“We work as a team and this training has reinforced what we do is right and the outcome is positive. It was nice to impart own knowledge to support others. Everyone’s ideas of what I could use back in my work place. A lovely course with great people and great ideas.”</i>																				
<b>Improving the experience for the child with Autism</b>	This course is aimed at increasing confidence and gaining practical strategies for teachers and TAs of Primary children with Autism Spectrum Conditions. NQTs are particularly welcome. We aim to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how ASC impacts on children’s ability to function in school.</li> <li>• Suggest resources and strategies to address the barriers to learning that ASC can create.</li> </ul> <i>“Thank you to Sharon Knight, the Woolgrove staff members and pupils who carried on with their learning while a group of nosy teachers looked around. It was remarkable how we were able to see ideas in action and be made to feel welcome despite being such a large group. We’ve already starting using some of the display ideas back at school. The discussions around the EYFS curriculum have also been very useful.”</i>																				
<b>Visual Resources</b>	‘Visual Resources’ is a practical course providing information on how to incorporate visual aids to support children working at an early developmental level. Visual supports include the use of real objects, photographs and symbols and can be used to help with communication, structure and to encourage independence. <i>“Helpful ideas, clear informative information Woolgrove Feedback : thank you for your invaluable support at the Solutions Circle.”</i>																				
<b>SENCO Day</b>	Understanding Behaviour - A practical workshop providing information on identifying and understanding pupil behaviour. It will give the opportunity to discuss and share practical positive strategies to support pupils at school. The course is aimed at staff working in Early Years Settings, Primary and Secondary Schools. <b>What was the most useful part of the day?</b> <i>“Listening to the presenter and meeting colleagues” “the presentation was really inspiring, I liked how it linked to the Steps model but was very practical” “working through examples using the given formats” “Being able to discuss issues with other professionals”</i> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Q9 Participation and interaction were encouraged</p> <p>Answered: 15 Skipped: 6</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Q9 Participation and interaction were encouraged</caption> <thead> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Strongly Agree</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr><td>Agree</td><td>40%</td></tr> <tr><td>Disagree</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>Strongly Disagree</td><td>0%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Q10 The training/event met my expectation</p> <p>Answered: 15 Skipped: 6</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Q10 The training/event met my expectation</caption> <thead> <tr><th>Response</th><th>Percentage</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Strongly Agree</td><td>30%</td></tr> <tr><td>Agree</td><td>70%</td></tr> <tr><td>Disagree</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>Strongly Disagree</td><td>0%</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thank you to Richard Pritchard and Sharon Knight for providing this training session at the SENCO Day.</b></p>	Response	Percentage	Strongly Agree	60%	Agree	40%	Disagree	0%	Strongly Disagree	0%	Response	Percentage	Strongly Agree	30%	Agree	70%	Disagree	0%	Strongly Disagree	0%
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### NESSie

North herts Emotional Support in schools Service

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



Website: <http://www.nhspl.org.uk/nessie.html>

We are delighted to announce that we have been shortlisted for the Allied Health Professions Award for contributions to public Health for our Self Harm prevention program - fingers crossed! (we are down to the last 3) Other news:

- Sarah Blackford - Letchworth and Royston coordinator has been ill following the flu at Christmas but I am glad to say she is feeling better and gradually returning to work. She has started her CYP-IAPT supervision training for which we received a grant from the Government.
- A big thank you to Becky Wilburn for all her support whilst Sarah has been ill. Becky is continuing to offer local staff forums and attending all SENCO and FSW forums which has been positively received. Becky is completing a supervision training independently. She leads on Early Years and Student Dramatherapy placements which have been well received. We hope to continue to develop this partnership with Anglia Ruskin University and thank you to all those settings that have worked with us and supported these students.
- This term I visited all area Heads forums and the secondary Heads forum. Thank you for all the positive feedback on the service and we will be rolling out a Survey Monkey to follow with DSPL to explore views and the future of NESSie following your advice.
- We have employed two new IAPT counsellors for secondary schools due to gaining government funding. Richard Leigh and Tim Goldman are working in the Priory and Brandles this year and we wish you all the best with this project.
- We are happy to announce that two of our IAPT counsellors from last year's cohort have remained part of the team are working in Knights Templar and Hitchin Girls School. Do contact me if you want more information and costings on the provision of Arts Therapy and Counselling in your setting.
- We continue to link closely with outside and local agencies and we are running free Parenting forums in each area and working in partnership with the Letchworth Centre for Healthy Living and offering two parent forums in their centre. There will be a cost of £8 per session which will be used entirely for funding future community events. It is hoped that these Parent forums gain momentum and run regularly and contribute to the strategic planning of the service.
- We are working with Angels, exploring local funding sources with the hope to begin a pilot of Dramatherapy groups for children with ASD and emotional needs whilst running parallel parent support.
- We are delighted that we are working with DSPL2 - to replicate the service in Stevenage.
- Finally we are working with NHS England to share our data in order to add to the evidence of need in local areas and we will be therefore adjusting our referral forms and bringing them into line with the GDPR.

We look forward to continuing to support you throughout the summer term and hearing your thoughts and feedback through our survey

Best wishes  
Rachel Lambie

#### NESSie Staff Forums

Details will be emailed once confirmed

**Baldock** – 30 April, 1:30pm at St Johns School,  
Baldock SG7 6TT

**Hitchin** - 2 May, 8:30am to 11:30am at Hitchin  
Youth Trust

Contact: Becky Wilburn [b.wilburn@rsat.org.uk](mailto:b.wilburn@rsat.org.uk)

**Royston** –25 April, 9am to 11am Greneway School

**Letchworth** –30 April, 9:30am to 11:30am at  
Woolgrove School

Contact: Sarah Blackford: [s.blackford@rsat.org.uk](mailto:s.blackford@rsat.org.uk)

### Parent Training Workshops, Networks & Forums

<b>Understanding Sleep Issues in Children with Autism/ADHD</b>	<b>Tuesday, 1 May 2018</b> <b>10am to 12pm</b> Letchworth Garden City Partnership Pod, Burley SG6 4PT	Gain a better understanding of the purpose and need for sleep and the Sleep Cycle. Explore the main difficulties and discuss a variety of strategies. Book online at <a href="http://nhdspl.org.uk/home/event-list.html">http://nhdspl.org.uk/home/event-list.html</a> Enquiries call Debbie Robins 07527 828 477
<b>NESSie Parent Forum - Anxiety</b>	9 May – Roysia School	Book online at <a href="http://nhdspl.org.uk/home/event-list.html">http://nhdspl.org.uk/home/event-list.html</a> Enquiries call Debbie Robins 07527 828 477
<b>NESSie Parent Forum - Anxiety</b>	20 June – Baldock	Book online at <a href="http://nhdspl.org.uk/home/event-list.html">http://nhdspl.org.uk/home/event-list.html</a> Enquiries call Debbie Robins 07527 828 477
<b>Anxiety: Building Confident and Resilience in Our Children, £8</b>	Tuesday, 22 May 2018	Booking online: <a href="https://www.letchworthcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Letchworth-Summer-V7-Web.pdf">https://www.letchworthcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Letchworth-Summer-V7-Web.pdf</a>

### Book your place online!

You can now book your training place through our website

<http://nhdspl.org.uk/>

You can still call/text to make enquiries: 07527 828 477

(Debbie Robins)

<http://nhdspl.org.uk/home/event-list.html>

If a course is fully booked you can join the waiting list



### Setting & School Transitions

<b>Parents</b>	<b>Preparing for transition to Secondary School</b> – The Communication and Autism Team Specialist Teachers will be delivering sessions. Tuesday, 15 May 2018 10am to 11:30am – for parents/carers of a child currently in <b>Year 5</b> 12:30pm to 2pm – for parents/carers of a child currently in <b>Year 6</b>
<b>Professionals</b>	<b>SENCO Transition Days</b> (aka 'speed-dating') An opportunity for Primary and Secondary SENCOs to discuss pupils with SEND needs transitioning in Hitchin. Dates: 24 May 2018 & 6 June 2018.

### Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust - Children's Speech & Language Therapy Service

#### Training Available for Early Years settings provided FREE

<b>Supporting Social Communication in Early Years Settings.</b> The session focuses on what social communication is, and how to support this aspect of speech and language development via specific strategies.	29 June 2018 10am to 12pm Broadwater CC (call Broadwater CC to book)
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Training and Workshops Autumn 2017 & Spring 2018 - Feedback Overview							
	The training increased my level of knowledge	The training was relevant to my needs	I will be able to apply the knowledge learned today	The trainer was knowledgeable and friendly	Participation and interaction were encouraged	Training met my expectations	How do you rate the training/event overall?
Autumn 2017	<b>97.4</b>	<b>96.2</b>	<b>97.4</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>97.4</b>	<b>98.7</b>
	% overall positive (rated strongly agree or agree) Total Attendees: 85, Responses: 78						
	<b>Parents</b> NESSie: Anxiety & Resilience, Self Harm Awareness ADD-Vance Training: Sensory Needs Natural Flair Coaching Ltd: The Child Puzzle				ADD-vance Sensory Needs (parents) feedback: 'a really helpful course – than you', 'extremely engaging and led by knowledgeable ladies' 'allowances made for people's concentration spans and disabilities and differing needs. Very willing to adapt as required'		
	<b>Professionals</b> Woolgrove School: Improving the school experience for the child with Autism, Introduction to Signing NESSie: Assessment & Evaluation, Anxiety & Resilience SpLD Base: Benchmarking						
	The training increased my level of knowledge	The training was relevant to my needs	I will be able to apply the knowledge learned today	The trainer was knowledgeable and friendly	Participation and interaction were encouraged	Training met my expectations	How do you rate the training/event overall?
Spring 2018	<b>100</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>97.1</b>	<b>97.1</b>
	% overall positive (rated strongly agree or agree) Total Attendees: 128, Responses: 91						
	<b>Parents</b> Natural Flair Coaching Ltd: Raising Self Esteem ADD-vance Training: Sensory Needs				<b>Professionals</b> ISL SEND: Emotional Regulation ADD-vance Training: Autism & Girls (Prof & Parents) Woolgrove School: Solution Circle for Teachers & TAs, Visual Resources Natural Flair Coaching Ltd: Child Puzzle		

## North Herts DSPL Contacts & Enquiries

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Debbie Robins – Administrator

[nhdspl@wilshere.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nhdspl@wilshere.herts.sch.uk)

Website: <http://www.nhdspl.org.uk/>

07527 828 477

### Help, Support and Advice

<p><b>Hertfordshire SEND Information, Advice &amp; Support Service (SENDIASS)</b> Formerly known as Parent Partnership Service, 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 <a href="http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/childfam/specialneeds/educ/parpart/">http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/childfam/specialneeds/educ/parpart/</a></p>	<p><b>The KIDS East and West HUBs</b> <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>
<p><b>Angels Support Group</b> 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 <a href="http://www.angelsupportgroup.org.uk">http://www.angelsupportgroup.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Up On Downs</b> 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>
<p><b>ADD-vance</b> 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) and 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>	<p><b>Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database</b> 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. <a href="http://handnews.hertscc.gov.uk/issue-38-november-2017/news-this-month/welcome-to-your-new-look-november-hand-news">http://handnews.hertscc.gov.uk/issue-38-november-2017/news-this-month/welcome-to-your-new-look-november-hand-news</a></p>
<p>For a list of <b>local support groups and voluntary organisations</b> click here <a href="http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/v/volorgs.pdf">http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/v/volorgs.pdf</a></p>	<p>The <b>Public Directory of Services</b> is available on the NHDSPL website <a href="http://nhdspl.org.uk">http://nhdspl.org.uk</a> . It contains support information for families in North Herts</p>
<p><b>Parents and Carers – How can you get involved?</b> Hertfordshire Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI) is the parent carer forum for Hertfordshire and part of a national network of parent carer forums. It is an independent parent carer led organisation with a network of parent carers from all over Hertfordshire. It aims to improve services for families by working alongside those providing services for children and young people with SEND (Special educational needs and disabilities) So if you are a parent or carer of a child or young person with SEND aged 0 – 25 years then join them- <a href="http://www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/">http://www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/</a></p>	

### Local Offer

Services for children and young people with SEND

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