

## National Updates

### Ofsted

Ofsted has released the latest findings from their recent ‘interim visits’ to six local areas to hear from children and young people with SEND, their families and practitioners and leaders who are supporting them, about their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report highlights 3 issues –

1. The rise in fixed term exclusions for CYP with SEND
2. More comprehensive and systematic planning for adulthood for CYP with SEND
3. Increasing the capacity and reach of respite care.

The full briefing can be found [here](#).



### Mental Health of Children and Young People in England: 2020

The [results](#) from the latest *Mental Health of Children and Young People (MHCYP)* survey have been released. A sub-group of CYP who took part in the 2017 survey were surveyed and their results compared with the results of the 2017 survey. This year the survey also sought to examine the specific impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Hertfordshire Updates

### Wellbeing for Education Return - Government Funded Training

The ‘Wellbeing for Education Return’ training has only a few dates left to run. This forms part of the government’s national project designed to support schools and colleges on responding to the wellbeing and mental health needs of CYP, staff and parents as a result of coronavirus. It is delivered through 2 webinars, which should be attended in order and by the same member of staff. It is government funded and is free to attend. Further details can be found here -

[http://www.thegrid.org.uk/learning/hwb/wellbeing\\_for\\_education/index.shtml](http://www.thegrid.org.uk/learning/hwb/wellbeing_for_education/index.shtml)

Webinar 1		Webinar 2	
30 November 2020	10-12:00	30 November 2020	14:00-16:00
3 December 2020	10-12:30	3 December 2020	14:00-16:00

Webinars can be booked through Herts for Learning in the usual way.

### Mental Health Leads Updates

Several updates have been sent out to MH leads with dates for Kite Mark webinars, school staff wellbeing sessions, making a bid for Feeling Good Week in February, MH First Aid and Level 2 training and a really useful document called ‘Schools Best Practice’. If you would like any further information, please email DSPL7. An updated MH service signposting guide was also sent out from Deborah Sheppard.

Deborah also highlighted some excellent NHS bereavement guides, which include an easy read version for CYP with additional needs. These can be viewed or downloaded from [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirusbereavement](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirusbereavement)

### Herts SpLD Outreach team

SENCOs should have received a ‘SENCo Information Sheet’ from their link SpLD outreach teacher this week. This gives detail about their training resources, SpLD assessments, the SpLD advice line and borrowing resources from the Windermere School Hub.

### Local Updates

#### Local High Needs Funding Panels (LHNF)

The initial trial panel, designed to pilot the system before its official rollout from January, was held on November 12<sup>th</sup>. 33 applications were received from across all age ranges. DSPL7 only has a very small LHNF budget and the panel members had to make some very difficult decisions. As a result of the trial panels across Herts, some changes will be made to the LHNF application form and guidance, which will be available on the Grid and the DSPL7 website shortly. Settings planning to make an application to the panel on January 22<sup>nd</sup> should send the forms through **SchoolsFx** to the designated panel address - [dspl7lhnfpanel@dspl7.org.uk](mailto:dspl7lhnfpanel@dspl7.org.uk). Applications should be received no later than 5pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January. Any late applications will be carried forward to the panel in February.

#### St Albans and Dacorum Local Multi Agency Group (LMAG) panel

The LMAG panel meets fortnightly on a Tuesday morning from 9.30-11.30am to discuss applications for EHC needs assessments (EHCNA). The panel would really welcome representation from the education section, particularly school SENCOs. It is also a valuable CPD opportunity for SENCOs to see what the process is following the application, and what information is valued most. If you would like to attend one of the virtual panels, please email [StADSENDTeam@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:StADSENDTeam@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

#### DSPL7

Our 'new to role/new to Herts' SENCO cluster met last week over Microsoft Teams. On the agenda was the new DSPL7 SEND guide, now available on our website [here](#). If you are a new SENCO, or an experienced SENCO new to Herts, and you would like join our next cluster meeting, please email [admin@dspl7.org.uk](mailto:admin@dspl7.org.uk)

There are still a few spaces available for our forthcoming training:

- 24 <sup>th</sup> November (online)	HfL Briefing	Louise Barrell
- 25 <sup>th</sup> November (online)	AET Making Sense of Autism	Helen Parkin
- 19 <sup>th</sup> January	DSPL7 update	Elaine Bridle

#### Creative Education Online Training Update



It's not too late to have a DSPL7 login to Creative Education – just email us with your details and you will be sent a welcome pack.

Upcoming training is focussed on 'Supporting primary pupils experiencing mental health issues', 'Spot and support' courses on all areas of SEND, training for teaching assistants and 'Dyslexia – 5 ideas that really work'.

### Signposting Parents

#### EHCP webinars

If you or a parent are considering making an EHCNA application, SENDIASS and HPCI are running a series of webinars to help families understand Hertfordshire's SEND systems and processes. The next webinar is entitled ***“When and how to apply for an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment”***. All webinars are recorded and free to access for any parent unable to attend the live event. Follow the link [here](#) for further information.