

Welcome

Welcome to the DSPL Dacorum Newsletter for professionals and parents and carers. We hope that it will give you a sense of what's going on with DSPL and special educational needs in Dacorum, and also let you know how you can get involved or be supported.

Dacorum DSPL Conference: "What's in it for me?"

The first Dacorum DSPL Conference took place on Wednesday 21st October at the South Hill Centre, Hemel Hempstead. Over 100 people attended from schools, nurseries, charities, and support services. We were delighted that a third of the attendees were parents and carers who took time to come and give us their views on what Dacorum DSPL should include in its next strategy.



The conference opened with a video showing children and young people with special educational needs from Kings Langley Primary, Greenwood Primary and Woodfield Special School, talking about the support they get and what they want to do in the future.

Dean Beadle, journalist and speaker, described his experience of navigating the education system with Asperger's Syndrome. His speech was described as "excellent and reminded us all why are here in such an inspirational way". Amongst other key messages, he emphasised the importance of focusing on what children are good at with no caveats, rather than telling them "you'd be really good at this if only you..."

The workshop sessions gave all attendees the opportunity to feed their views into what priorities Dacorum DSPL should focus on. Everyone was asked about what concerns they have and what is missing at the moment. All the feedback has been put together and the DSPL Board will be discussing how we can respond.



The event ended with an opportunity to look round the information stands of nearly 20 local organisations who support children and young people with SEN and their families. Links to all organisations are listed at the back of this newsletter.

"I found Dean's presentation very inspiring, and the workshops insightful. I have gained a lot of information and ideas."

"The opportunity to meet with other service providers was very useful."

"Sharing ideas with parents/carers and other professionals."

"Thank you for organising such a successful first conference. Can this become an annual event?"



A short video showing highlights of the event will be on our website soon at www.dacorumspl.org.uk. All photos are subject to copyright to Snapdragon photography www.snapdragonphotography.co.uk

Autism Review

Hertfordshire County Council has now published the report on its recent Autism Review, by Dr Glynis Jones. The report is available at:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/childfam/dspl/>

One of the recommendations is that each DSPL area is to set up a Working Group to decide on how we respond to the report. Some of our board members have already put themselves forward meaning we already have a mix of head teachers, SENCos and parents, but it would help us to include colleagues, parents and carers who are not board members. If you are able to give up some time to attend meetings and feed into this work please contact us.

Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) Bases Review

A review of SpLD bases has been undertaken by Anne Powell-Davies, Assistant Principle Educational Psychologist at Hertfordshire County Council. The report is available at:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/s/SpLDReview2015.pdf>

Dacorum DSPL will be represented on a working group led by Anne Powell-Davies.

Families in Focus CIC courses

Families in Focus provide free parenting training courses for parents/carers of children and young people with additional needs, and also for parents/carers who have additional needs themselves.



Courses in Hemel Hempstead starting in January include 'Complete Guide to Parenting a Child with Additional Needs' and 'Managing Behaviours of Teenagers with Additional Needs through to Adulthood'.

They have recently been awarded Lottery Funding to set up a series of Parent2Parent networks across Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, offering parents of children with additional needs regular, facilitated, quality sessions to help them gain skills in supporting their families more effectively.

To find out more about local courses visit their website www.familiesinfocus.co.uk

ADD-Vance training – ADHD, Asperger's and ASD

This term we've run our fourth course of twilight workshops for teachers and teaching staff, and our sixth parenting workshop. More courses are planned for the Spring term, please contact us if you're interested. Feedback from these courses is always positive.



We were excited to pilot the first INSET day for all staff at Boxmoor Primary School earlier this month, and will be rolling this out to other schools in the district. If you are interested please contact us.

"It was so great to have all members of staff present, teachers, teaching assistants, midday supervisors and office staff all hearing the same message about ASC and ADHD. [...] I cannot thank DSPL enough for funding this training for us. We are having more and more children with complex needs in mainstream school and it is important that we have an understanding and strategies to meet their needs." – feedback from Vicky Evans, head teacher.

"In one of the small group sessions there was a light-bulb moment when teaching staff and midday supervisors, talking about the same child, realised that the behaviour seen in three different settings all added up and they commented that they rarely have the opportunity to sit down and speak together and discuss in this way and how positive that was." – feedback from Pamela Reitemeier, trainer. www.add-vance.org

ELKLAN training

ELKLAN training is now being funded at primary and secondary level by Dacorum DSPL. This term staff from three Secondary Schools and nine Primary Schools are receiving the training, with further training planned over the academic year.



“Elklan was established in 1999 by two experienced speech and language therapists Liz Elks and Henrietta McLachlan in response to a demand for training to be delivered by speech and language therapists to education staff to enable them to be more effective in their support of children with speech, language and communication needs.” www.elklan.co.uk

Nurture Groups

“Nurture groups offer an opportunity to learn the early nurturing experiences some children and young people lack, giving them the skills to do well at school, make friends and deal more confidently and calmly with the trials and tribulations of life, for life.” www.nurturegroups.org—The Nurture Group Network.

Following the successful Nurture Group run at Tudor School by Dacorum ESC, Nurture Groups are now up and running at Kings Langley Primary School, Boxmoor Primary School, Hammond Academy, with a further group to be set up at Broadfield Primary School next term. This means that children from a wider geographical area are accessing Nurture provision, and their families are also able to attend parenting groups.

Hertfordshire Steps

Hertfordshire Steps is Hertfordshire County Council’s approach to supporting positive behaviour management in schools. Dacorum DSPL is working with Hertfordshire County Council’s Steps Co-ordinator to roll out training to all schools in the area, and fund 100% of the training fee. Contact us if you’d like to find out more about this.

http://www.thegrid.org.uk/leadership/isl/herts_steps.shtml

Down’s Syndrome

We’re working with SENCos at mainstream schools in the district to look at opportunities for joint training. If you know of a child with Down’s Syndrome attending a mainstream school, please contact us.

Up on Downs is a parent run organisation which supports families of children with Down’s Syndrome. For more information please visit their website www.upondowns.com / Email: enquiries.nhdowns@yahoo.co.uk.



Outreach Review

Colnbrook Special School continues to offer outreach support to schools in Dacorum, funded by Hertfordshire County Council. The support ranges from consultations about a specific child to whole school training. Please visit <http://www.colnbrook.herts.sch.uk/community/outreach.html> for more information.

Ofsted want your views on SEN provision

This is a consultation on Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission’s proposals for inspecting how effectively local areas fulfil their responsibilities towards children and young people who are disabled and/or have special educational needs under section 20 of the Children Act 2004. The consultation document sets out the principles under which the 2 inspectorates propose to undertake these joint inspections. To find out more visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-area-send-consultation>

Dacorum DSPL Conference: What's in it for me?" List of stallholders

KIDS Hub and KIDS Independent Support

West: 01923 676549 East: 01992 504013 www.kids.org.uk/hub

Herts SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Information, Advice & Support Service)

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/childfam/specialneeds/educ/parpart/>

HPCI (Herts Parent Carer Involvement)

www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk

Hemel Hempstead East Children's Centre Network

www.broadfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk/childrens-centres

Speech and Language Base, Longdean School

Contact: Director of Learning, Speech and Language Base <https://moodle.longdean.herts.sch.uk/mod/page/view.php?id=3610>

ISL (Integrated Services for Learning)

<http://directory.hertsdirect.org/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/service.page?id=7gaDHR-rkQY&familychannel=4>

Snowbilly

<http://snowbilly.co.uk>

HARC (Hertfordshire Branch of the NAS)

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

ADD-vance <http://www.add-vance.org/>

DESC (Dacorum Education Support Centre) <http://www.desc.herts.sch.uk/>

Woodfield School

<http://www.woodfield.herts.sch.uk/>

The Reddings Primary and Nursery School

Primary Support Base (PSB) Tel: 01442-406500 www.reddings.herts.sch.uk

Colnbrook School – Outreach

<http://www.colnbrook.herts.sch.uk/community/outreach.html>

Sunnyside Rural Trust

<http://www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk/>

SpLD Bases – Maple Grove <http://www.maplegrove.herts.sch.uk/spld.html>

The Thomas Coram School <http://www.thomascoram.herts.sch.uk/spldbase/>

West Herts College 01923 812345 www.westherts.ac.uk

Dacorum Family Services [www.dacorumfamilyservices.org.uk](http://www.dacorumfamilyservices.org.uk;);

Gade Schools Family Support www.gadeschoolsfamilysupport.co.uk

Kings Langley Partnership of Schools 01923 271744; Link Family Services www.linkfamilyservices.co.uk

Herts Local Offer - Information about services available in your local area for parents, children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

directory.hertsdirect.org/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/localoffer.page



Herts Local Offer on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/hertscountycouncil>

If you/your organisation uses Facebook, please Like and Share this item to help spread the message.



The latest version of the KIDS Hub directory of SEND services has just been published. Take a look at what's going on in your area:

<http://www.kids.org.uk/hub>



The DSPL Dacorum Team

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