

## 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.

## Autism Review

Dacorum DSPL is responding to the recommendations made in Dr Glenys Jones's Autism Review. We will be appointing an Autism Lead who will work with schools to make sure that they have inclusive practices and can support children and young people with a diagnosis of ASD. We are working with Hertfordshire County Council to make an Autism Awareness film, showing how mainstream schools can support children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders and how it can improve their experience of school. You can read more about the recommendations at: <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/childfam/dspl/>

## Schools' Autism Awareness Week 14-18th March 2016

The National Autistic Society has produced free resource packs for schools to promote awareness of the condition, through lessons and assemblies. You can download these at:

<http://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/world-autism-awareness-week/schools-autism-awareness-week.aspx>

One of the recommendations in Dr Glenys Jones's report is:

*"That whole school work is done on teaching every child about diversity and difference in terms of skills, abilities and preferences which includes information on key developmental and medical conditions such as autism, hearing and visual impairments, physical disabilities and learning disabilities. This should include areas of strength and interests in addition to areas of difficulty. A useful exercise would be for staff to ask all children in a class to develop a profile of themselves using different formats, as appropriate, and for these to be presented to the class by the pupils over a period of a term."* (Recommendation D45)

We would love to hear if you use these resources and how they worked at your school – please let us know. Raising awareness amongst fellow pupils was a suggestion that came up at the Dacorum DSPL Conference last term and we will be running more initiatives in this area.



## Hertfordshire SEND Strategy

Hertfordshire County Council's Special Educational Needs and Disability Strategy was published in September 2015 and can be downloaded from:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/s/sendstrategy1518.pdf>

A number of workstreams have been identified, around themes such as Exceptional Needs Funding and Autism. Dacorum schools are represented on each of the workstreams, and Dacorum DSPL is ensuring that our area is represented in any additional consultation meetings that are held.



### ADD-Vance Whole School Training

Dacorum DSPL is now funding whole school training! Following the success at Boxmoor Primary School last term, we will now cover the cost of a full or half day training session for all staff at your school. Please contact us if you are interested in the first instance, and we will then make arrangements with ADD-Vance.

### ADD-Vance School Staff Workshops

A one-off ADD-Vance workshop is planned for the latter part of the Spring term for school staff and a further set of twilight workshops are currently being planned for the Summer term. Dates of these will be forwarded in due course.

### ADD-Vance Parents' Courses

The next parents' course is starting at the end of February for 6 weeks - "Time out for ADHD and ASD" - Now fully booked. More courses and workshops are planned - we will let you know as soon as dates are finalised.



### About ADD-Vance [www.add-vance.org](http://www.add-vance.org)

ADD-Vance is a registered charity, providing 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. Sign up as a member and receive regular news and information. ADD-Vance also has a closed Facebook Group to help members share information and advice. To access the group, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/677078875703666/>. Once your request has been approved you will be able to view posts and add your own posts and comments.



## Parent Support Group

**Every Wednesday  
10:30 am to 12 noon**

(Term time only)

@ The Lodge, Woodfield School

Malmes Croft, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8RL

Contact: [vanessa.gregory@woodfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:vanessa.gregory@woodfield.herts.sch.uk)  
01442 253476



Do you have a child with additional needs? Need somebody to talk to?

Come and meet other parents for a coffee and a chat. Young children welcome

Whether your child is at mainstream school or a special school, You are welcome to meet other parents, talk to professionals, or simply drop in for a coffee and meet new friends who also have a child with special educational needs.

ALL WELCOME - JUST COME ALONG

[www.woodfield.herts.sch.uk](http://www.woodfield.herts.sch.uk)

### Families in Focus - Free Parenting courses

Families in Focus offers free parenting courses for parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs. More information on their 2016 courses is available at

<http://www.familiesinfocus.co.uk/free-parenting-courses/>



### Dacorum School Family Worker Services

Dacorum has four School Family Worker Services which support families with children in local schools. They offer individual advice and also run courses on different aspects of parenting. Some areas have set up support groups of parents of children with additional needs. To find out more please see contact details on back page of newsletter.



## Mental Health

Mental health has been identified as a priority for Dacorum DSPL and we will be considering how to respond to this growing need. We are funding training for School Family Workers so that they have practical tools to enable them to support families and will be looking at ways to support children and young people in schools.

## Special School Outreach

Dacorum schools are entitled to outreach sessions funded by Hertfordshire County Council as part of County's Special School Outreach review. To access free support, please visit Colnbrook's website and contact the schools directly: <http://www.colnbrook.herts.sch.uk/community/outreach.html>



## ELKLAN

### Early Years ELKLAN training

We have had some interest from Early Years settings in undertaking this training, and will be able to run a training course if we get enough interest. If you would like to attend this training course, please contact Maria or Jan to register your interest using the details at the end of this newsletter.

### Primary and Secondary School ELKLAN training

Dacorum DSPL covers full training costs for ELKLAN training, and dates are sent out regularly to SENCOs. Training for Primary School staff is delivered by NHS Speech and Language Therapy, and training for Secondary School staff is delivered by Longdean Speech and Language Base. Contact us if you would like to receive the next set of training dates.



**EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS**  
workshops for parents and carers

### Who is the workshop for?

- Parents and carers of children and young people who currently have a statement of special educational needs
- Parent and carers of children and young people who are going through the process of getting an EHC plan

### What will the workshop cover?

- Why statements are changing to EHC plans
- What an EHC plan is and how it is different from a statement
- What will happen and how it will be done
- How parents can get ready for the change to EHC plans
- How your child or young person can be involved
- What the rights of the child or young person are under the new law
- Who can help to support you and what services/professionals can be involved

### How do I book a place or get further details?

**Book online** at [www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/events](http://www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/events) - details of the venue locations can be found there too. Or phone HPCI on 07840 360245. These workshops are funded by a grant from the Department for Education and supported by SENDIASS (formerly Parent Partnership) and Independent Support (KIDS). **If you are interested but can't make these dates further workshops are being planned for the summer term so join our network at [www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/join-our-network](http://www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/join-our-network) or email: [chair@hertsparentcarers.org.uk](mailto:chair@hertsparentcarers.org.uk) to register your interest.**

### When and where:

**Wednesday 10th Feb 10.30 – 2.30pm**  
**Hemel Hempstead – Holiday Inn - HP2 4UA**

**Saturday 13th Feb 1-5pm**  
**St Albans - Fleetville Junior School - AL14LW**

**Tuesday 8th March 10.30-2.30pm**  
**Hertford – KIDS Hub – SG13 7SP**

**Monday 14th March 10.30-2.30pm**  
**St Albans - Fleetville Junior School - AL14LW**

**Tuesday 22nd March 10.30-2.30pm**  
**Watford – Stanborough Centre – WD25 9JL**

## Help, Support & Advice

### 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](http://directory.hertsdirect.org/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/localoffer.page)



### Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database

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. [directory.hertsdirect.org/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/service.page?id=W-oM7uWKTro&familychannel=4](http://directory.hertsdirect.org/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/service.page?id=W-oM7uWKTro&familychannel=4)

For a list of local support groups and voluntary organisations click here <http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/v/volorgs.pdf>

### Dacorum School Family Worker Services

Dacorum has four School Family Services teams, who support families of children attending Dacorum Schools. Advice and support is available on a range of issues, including supporting families of children with additional needs. School Family Workers can also help with the facilitation of Education, Health and Care Plans. The teams also run parenting courses and advice sessions, for example with specialists in special educational needs.

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

**Gade Schools Family Support** [www.gadeschoolsfamilysupport.co.uk](http://www.gadeschoolsfamilysupport.co.uk)

**Kings Langley Partnership of Schools** 01923 271744;

**Link Family Services** [www.linkfamilyservices.co.uk](http://www.linkfamilyservices.co.uk)

### Hertfordshire SEND Information, Advice & Support Service (SENDIASS)

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 [sendiass@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sendiass@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

Find out more at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/healthsoc/childfam/specialneeds/educ/parpart/>



### The KIDS East and West HUBs 01923 676549

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—take a look at what's going on in your area. [www.kids.org.uk/hub](http://www.kids.org.uk/hub)



### HARC (Hertfordshire Branch of the NAS)

Supporting families and people living with autism

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



harc – the Hertfordshire branch  
of the National Autistic Society



### DSPL - How can I get involved?

There are a number of ways in which parents can get involved in services. Herts Parent Carer Involvement is a forum for parents to get more involved in the

shaping and improving of services for children with additional needs. For more information contact your local network at [chair@hertsparentcarers.org](mailto:chair@hertsparentcarers.org) or visit [www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk](http://www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk)



### The DSPL Dacorum Team

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