

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. Welcome to the summer term newsletter for Dacorum Delivering Special Provision Locally (DSPL). We have been very busy over the last term, and have lots planned for the Autumn term.

Changes to the team

We're delighted to welcome Ashley Fabray to the team as DSPL Administrator. Ashley has a wealth of experience in working with schools and families, having worked for Link Family Services and for Hemel Hempstead East Children's Centre. Jan Nethercoat left the team in May, to focus on her expanding role at Dacorum Family Services. While we're sad to see her go, DSPL works closely with all Family services in Dacorum, so we're still working together!



Ashley (left) and Maria

Dacorum DSPL Conference

Who is invited? Parents and carers of children and young people with SEND, local charities and organisations, head teachers, senior school leads and SENCOs

When? Wednesday 19th October 2016, 10am until 3pm

Where? The South Hill Centre, Cemetery Hill, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1JF

What is it about? We want to share with everyone the impact our work is having on children and young people in Dacorum, and get your feedback on what else we should be doing

How do I book? Email Ashley on fabraya@kls.herts.sch.uk

FREE CRECHE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 AND PARKING REFUND FOR PARENTS AND CARERS!

Special School Outreach

Dacorum Schools are entitled to funded outreach sessions provided by Colnbrook Special School. This can be in the form of staff training, or advice on a particular pupil. To find out more visit <http://www.colnbrook.herts.sch.uk/community/outreach.html>



ELKLAN training

ELKLAN training is 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. ELKLAN Training dates for early years settings and primary and secondary school staff will be announced next term. Dacorum DSPL will pay attendance fees for any staff member from a Dacorum school or setting.

We have been working with Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust to put on ELKLAN training for those working with children aged 3-5. These courses are proving to be extremely popular.

If you have staff at your setting who would like to attend, please contact Ashley to be added to the mailing list for when the next training dates are announced.



Autism Review

We are working with Hertfordshire County Council to put into place recommendations made by Dr Glynis Jones in her 2014 Autism Review.

The recommendations range from information that the County Council and the local area should make available to families of children and young people pre and post diagnosis, to how schools should best support pupils with autism and their families.

What is happening in Dacorum?

Sharing ideas: We are working with Hertfordshire County Council to produce a film, showing examples of how some schools are supporting pupils with autism. The film is aimed at all schools, particularly those concerned about budget restraints.

Safe spaces: We have provided small amounts of funding to schools in our area to create a safe space for an autistic child to go to when they feel overwhelmed. These schools will also act as examples of best practice which can be shared with other schools.

Social Skills: We are running workshops for teaching assistants in on how to support pupils with autism to develop social skills. The workshops will be delivered by Jo Whitlock, Autism Advisory Teacher, and teaching assistants will then run weekly lunchtime clubs in their own schools, based around the interest of the pupil they want to support – this might be Lego, Minecraft, Dr Who... Unstructured school time such as lunch breaks can be extremely stressful for children and young people with autism, so not only will the lunchtime clubs provide a safe haven once a week, based around the pupil's interest, but they can learn social skills by interacting with other pupils who share that interest. We'll be working with the schools to evaluate how effective the lunchtime clubs are.

Staff and parent training: We are continuing to work with ADD-Vance, a Hertfordshire based charity supporting families with children with ADHD and Autism, to run parenting workshops and training for teaching staff.

We'll also be working with Hertfordshire County Council to roll out Autism Education Trust training across all schools.

Autumn dates will be announced in September – please email Ashley on fabraya@kls.herts.sch.uk if you'd like to be added to the mailing list.

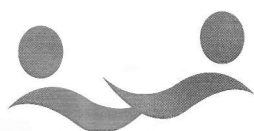


Support for parents

Special Needs Parents Support Tring:

For parents and carers of children with special needs in the Tring Area.

Visit our website at www.snpst.org.uk or contact Hildy Mason at hildymason@hotmail.com



Families in Focus Parent Network:

Learning and support groups for parents with children with additional needs – no need to book just turn up! Free! Francine & Lesley – Families in Focus & over 25 years of experience

Hemel Hempstead South Hill Centre, Cemetery Hill, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1JF

9.30am to 12pm

Monday 12th September – Open forum, SENDIASS and returning back to school

Monday 3rd October — Emotional journey: parenting additional needs children and relationships

Monday 7th November - Managing stress and speaker from Carers In Hertfordshire

Monday 28th November – Supporting siblings

Monday 12th December – Creative Christmas fun!

Find out more at www.familiesinfocus.org or phone 01442 219720.

**Berkhamsted Support group:**

For parents of children with ADHD/ASD/
Communication Disorder or with Sensory
Processing needs.

Next meeting at:

Westfield Primary School

Friday 30th September 1.15-2.45pm.

Facilitated by Lisa MacGovern (School
Family Worker) with Jo Whitlock from the
Communication Autism Team.

Contact Lisa on

lisamacgovern@hobbshillwood.herts.sch.uk

**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
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

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



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

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 three 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

Gade Schools Family Support www.gadeschoolsfamilysupport.co.uk

Kings Langley Partnership of Schools 01923 271744

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.

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



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 or visit www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk

Herts
Parent
Carer Involvement
"improving services for our disabled children"



The DSPL Dacorum Team

Maria Oliver - DSPL Manager 07711556792 Email: oliverm@kls.herts.sch.uk

Ashley Fabray - DSPL Administrator 07525 917125 Email: fabraya@kls.herts.sch.uk