

DSPL | Developing Special Provision Locally

Be involved, make a difference

Opportunities for Parents of Children with Specialist Needs

DSPL | Developing Special Provision Locally will secure a range of provision, support services and resources in each area that:



- meets the needs of children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 as close to home as possible
- improves outcomes for wellbeing and attainment
- widens choice for children and parents/carers
- removes barriers to learning
- uses resources effectively

DSPL—It's Role in Your Area



This project—Developing Special Provision Locally—DSPL—was launched by Hertfordshire in Spring 2012. The aim and objective of this project across Hertfordshire was to focus on enabling Districts to have more ownership and influence over all aspects of provision for children and young people aged 0 to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

The Dacorum DSPL Group was formally formed in May 2012 and is made up of Headteachers and other professionals involved in working with children and young people with additional and specialist needs but most importantly, parents are involved in this Group as well.



The main priorities of this Dacorum District DSPL Group is to give all of us the opportunity to take more ownership and have more influence over the support and provision we can put in place for our children. In addition, this also gives us the opportunity to make sure that all who work with children and young people with additional and specialist needs are better equipped and supported in ensuring they have the best possible opportunities to develop, grow and fulfill their potential. For parents this is an exciting project and one in which parents in particular will also have access to a greater level of support, information and additional services.

DSPL Area 8—Dacorum

Lead School—Kings Langley Primary School, Common Lane, Kings Langley Tel: 01923 263321

www.thegrid.org.uk/learning/sen/dspl

DSPL—Its Role within Dacorum

The primary purpose of the work of DSPL within Dacorum is to influence the shape and form of SEND provision and services within the Dacorum area. The overarching intention of DSPL is that the needs of children and young people with SEND are met as locally as possible with schools. A key component of this project is localism, whereby schools, settings, parents and partners in areas work together to take responsibility for children and young people with SEND.

More specifically for Parents and Families, this new project within your area will aim to deliver the following:

- Develop high confidence levels of parents in local provision and services
- Increase capacity within schools and settings to meet needs locally
- Ensure the efficient use of resources and value for money in all areas of SEND provision
- Provide broader curriculum opportunities for children and young people with SEND
- Ensure there is greater involvement of local schools in overseeing provision and services
- Provide a broader range of local facilities and resources that meet individual needs
- Improved progress and outcomes for children through good quality, effective local provision.



The full range and levels of SEND will be included in the scope of the Dacorum project:

- Learning difficulties
- Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties
- Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- Speech, Language and Communication Needs
- Sensory and/or physical needs



With these priorities identified, additional funding for some new projects within our area has been agreed

- **Nurture Group Project** will establish a centralised team and base to deliver a static and school based nurture environment. This project is being run and hosted by the Dacorum Education Support Centre
- **Early Years Specialist Development Centre:** A project team is currently working on identifying a suitable premises within Dacorum for the setting up of an Early Years Specialist Development Centre for use by parents, carers, children and professionals within the District.
- **Parent Support and Training:** Funding has been obtained to increase and improve the level of support to parents of children with ADHD and ASD with a series of specialist training courses.
- **ASD Training for Professionals:** Funding is being used to provide improved support for children and young people with diagnosed ASD in mainstream settings. The funding will provide National Autistic Society training of staff in Dacorum and staff will be trained to be able to further support families within Dacorum.



Training Opportunity for Parents

Understanding and Managing ADHD, Aspergers and High Functioning Autism (HFA)

The first key project for Parents is the opportunity to get involved in local training to support you in managing family life when you have a child or young person with ADHD, Aspergers and/or Autism. The aim of this training course, dedicated for parents in our area, is to provide a deeper insight into ADHD, Aspergers and Autism, to obtain practical and realistic strategies to help manage family life and relationships, to have the opportunity to discuss your own challenges and explore techniques that will help, and to have the opportunity to practice new strategies to help improve your opportunities as a family and those of your child. Parents will learn practical, effective techniques to help reduce stress and challenging behaviour, uncover resilience, discover hope and opportunities and finally ways to rediscover yourself.



This is a 5 day course aimed at providing the following in both a structured and practical way:

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Parents will look at ADHD and with specialist coaches explore the following:

- Further understanding of the core symptoms
- Exploring the impact on the individual and their relationships
- Overview of related conditions
- The benefits of ADHD

Aspergers & High Functioning Autism

Parents will gain a deeper understanding of the following and strategies will be provided to help create environments that work for all the family:

- Understand core symptoms
- Understand social & communication issues
- Understand anxiety, depression and obsessive behaviour
- Understand executive dysfunction and rage cycle



Understanding Communication and Behaviour

Strategies and techniques will be provided and explored to help parents understand ways to:

- Change perceptions, behaviour and results
- Learning styles and the effect on individuals
- Skills that develop effective learning
- Successful conflict resolution, removing emotions and other controlling factors

What is Coaching

Finally parents will get an understanding of how coaching can support your family and your child and specifically:

- How coaching, mentoring and therapy differ and how parents can put this into practice
- Evaluating areas of life and helping you to decide what needs to change
- Practical application for parents



Training Opportunity for Parents

Introductory Workshop

We are conscious that 5 days can be a big commitment for parents, however we are confident that this commitment will provide significant results and benefits for parents and families. In order to learn more about this training we are hosting two introductory workshops for parents to learn more about this training and what you will gain from it.

These short workshops will provide parents with a further introduction to the DSPL project and what it means to parents and secondly our specialist coaches will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about the training course, what is involved in the course and a more detailed understanding of how you and your family will benefit from attending:



Workshop Dates:

Tuesday 2nd July—9.30am to 11.00am—Hemel Hempstead Area

Wednesday 3rd July—7.30am to 8.30pm—Kings Langley School.

Both workshops will be hosted in the Dacorum area. Venues will be confirmed upon booking. To book on one of these workshops please contact your local DSPL administration contact on 01923 271744.

Course Dates

In order to provide parents with the most comprehensive experience these courses are run over 5-days. Currently we are hosting them to run over 5 consecutive days during which time parents will have the opportunity to understand and explore strategies and with the support of the specialist coaches who will be hosting these courses, gain in confidence to put strategies into practice.

For parents who wish to book on the course we have schedule the following two courses:

Course One

Monday 16th to Friday 20th September 2013—9.30am to 3.00pm each day

Course Two

Monday 20th to Friday 24th January 1014—9.30am to 3.00pm each day

Both courses will be hosted in the Dacorum area. Venues will be confirmed upon booking. To book on one of these courses please contact your local DSPL administration contact on 01923 271744.



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. The forum gathers parents views and experiences across education, health and social care and supports parents through events, networking and information. If you would like to get more involved with how special needs are catered for in your area you can contact your local network at dacorum@hertsparentcarers.org.uk or visit www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk.



For more information about the DSPL Project visit
www.thegrid.org.uk/learning/sen/dspl