

DSPL7 Newsletter for professionals, parents & carers

Date: May 2019

Issue 7

Welcome

Web Address www.dspl7.org.uk

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Welcome to the 2019 summer edition of the DSPL7 Newsletter. Since our last edition the DSPL7 team has moved to Fleetville Junior School, as part of Spiral Partnership Trust, but our contact details remain the same admin@dspl7.org.uk.

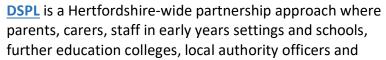
We are delighted to welcome Androulla Peek, the CEO of Spiral Partnership Trust to the post of DSPL7 Lead. Androulla says:



"I am very excited to be taking on the lead of DSPL7 in this next part of its journey. I know I am taking on a successful and well respected group and would like to thank Margaret Chapman and her staff, the DSPL managers, St Albans Girls School and the management board for all their hard work to date. I am looking forward to strengthening partnerships and helping to align key services that support parents and families in our District so that our young people have the maximum opportunities they need and deserve. Having been given the security of three years' funding, we are looking forward to the continuing success of DSPL7".

In this edition we will be focusing upon the highlights of the winter term and share our plans for the next academic year. We hope that it will give you some insight into the work that is taking place and let you know how you can get involved or be supported.

What is Delivering Special Provision Locally (DSPL)?





representatives from other agencies work together as part of an Area Group, to ensure that there is a range of provision and support available in their local community that meets the needs of children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities (SEND), aged 0-25 years. For more information please visit our website at dsep17.org.uk.

The website has content for parents & carers and also for schools and settings. It includes up to date flyers for courses and workshops within the 'Forthcoming Events' tab. There is also helpful information and numerous links to appropriate organisations under the 'Support for Parents and Settings' tab, and the 'Useful Links' tab. Within the 'Contact Us' tab, there is a form for registering your details for our mailing list. All pages include links to the DSPL7 Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/dsplseven/

The DSPL7 support team



<u>Staff changes</u> Sophie Heselton, (left), and Rachel Robin, (right), provide the administrative support for DSPL7.

Elaine Bridle and Margot Nichols continue to job share the role of DSPL7 Manager. Elaine Bridle is also the Primary SEND Lead and Margot Nichols is the Secondary SEND Lead & Autism Lead.

Update on support for families.

Families who have children, (aged between 5 -16 years), with identified behavioural and emotional needs and are referred to Links Outreach Service via their school, can access additional family support. Family Support for behaviour is provided by **Clare Tominey-Smith**.



Your Family Support worker can provide strategies and guidance on helping families cope with the challenging behaviours in the home and signpost to agencies that can provide additional support.

This is a short term early intervention provision to help establish routines and boundaries in the home and to help tackle any additional issues of concern. The aim is to help create a stress free and safe home environment.

Schools that feel that a student would benefit from an intervention from our family support practitioner should complete the Single Service request form and return it to the LINKS sist@linksacademy.herts.sch.uk

<u>Early Years Support</u> DSPL7 has funded an Early Years Specialist Support Worker to work with the children and nurseries to manage and change challenging behaviour, (including private nursery provision). The Support Worker, (Charlotte Hamilton), is accessed through Links AP Academy.

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





Working with Space



If you would like more information on our support groups

please check our **website**, contact the **SPACE** team by **email** or alternatively find us on **Facebook** under the name of **SPACE**



On 14th March SPACE delivered a fantastic conference entitled "What lies beneath behaviour", the aim of which was to support parent and carers of children with challenging behaviour. The inspirational speaker Yvonne Newbold

presented two sessions.

During the morning Yvonne led a workshop on "Violent and Challenging Behaviour in Children with Additional Needs". The session started with "What is VCB? And why it differs from other forms of child to parent violence". The workshop was truly

inspirational. Sensitive issues such as how to deal with the stigma surrounding VCB and the effects this has on the family were covered in an insightful and sensitive



manner.

In the afternoon we looked at "How to keep siblings safe when your child is violent, aggressive and destructive at home" Yvonne shared what parents can do to make it easier and more bearable for the brothers and sisters. We looked at family dynamics and how to make them work better. We covered sibling rivalry, resentments and jealousies, common issues that occur in every family, but which take on a different level of concern when one child can be violent.



"Thank you so much for such an insightful and personal day with our families. It was a pleasure to have you and we very much look forward to seeing you both again very soon."

"Excellent course today was very insightful thanks to all involved in putting this together for us."

The day concluded with a well-received session for professionals led by Sally Glossop on "Understanding what lies beneath anxiety".

SPACE runs social events to enable families to have fun relaxed days out together, so the children can make friends and the parents can share their journeys.

Karen says, "the monthly group hosts speakers to enable parents to gain knowledge of support for their children in the area and also support for themselves. All parents/carers of children and young people with ADHD, ASD and related conditions are invited to join our community." The next monthly meeting will be held at ST Albans Girls' School on Friday June 14thth – Sally Glossop will be speaking about Autism and Anxiety.

SPACE for Dads New football team

SPACE for Dads play at Breaks Manor each Tuesday evening followed by a social post-match pint, providing a chance to chat about issues and share information with others in a similar situation.

The group came about after inclusive social football team for children Therapeutic Thunder FC and SPACE identified a need to offer support for dads and male caregivers.



SPACE co-founder Karen Spencer said: "Sometimes men find traditional support networks difficult to engage with, however their need for support, information and access to assistance is vital." Therapeutic Thunder runs football training for children with emotional, behavioural and physical additional needs.

Paul Wainhouse from Therapeutic Thunder said:

"Dads who might feel isolated or find it difficult to ask for help or support, or in some cases where to find it, can come and play football, have a chat and get the information they need. That is sometimes enough to help them feel supported."

Those who don't play football are also welcome to socialise.

Email Paul Wainhouse at contactthooves@gmail.com to get involved.

New from Families in Focus

A new Parent Network support & information group for parents caring for children and young people with either a diagnosis or awaiting diagnosis of Special Education Needs.

Maria, Siobhann & Hayley are trained Families in Focus CIC facilitators and are running FREE Parent Network support & information drop in sessions in Harpenden for parents/adoptive parents and grandparents caring for children and young people with either a diagnosis or awaiting diagnosis of Special Education Needs. Non-judgemental, caring support groups for parents by parents caring for a child with any special education needs. No need to book just turn up.

Run by parents for parents.

Where: The Harpenden Trust Centre, 90, Southdown Road, Harpenden AL5 1PS

When: Thursdays, 7pm to 9pm

2019 Dates: Thursday evenings, June 6th & 27th, July 18th, September 12th, October 3rd & 24th, November 14th, December 12th

How to contact Families in Focus

If you are a parent you are welcome to join the closed facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/184975381651870/

Web: www.familiesinfocus.co.uk

Email: info@familiesinfocus.co.uk



Autism News

Free Autism Education Trust training

Hertfordshire County Council continues to provide training to every member of teaching staff in Hertfordshire.



National

Good Autism Practice (referred to as Tier 2) This whole day course is aimed at teachers, teaching assistants, inclusion staff, INCOs, SENCos, autism champions and all staff who may be supporting children and young people with autism on a daily basis. Courses will be run regularly throughout the year

The next session is running on Monday 17th June at Hertfordshire Development Centre.

Leading Good Autism Practice (referred to as Tier 3) This training is designed for staff who have a leadership role that includes responsibility for developing provision for pupils on the autism spectrum within a school setting, (Members of the Senior Leadership team, SEND Governors, INCO/SENCo).

This session will bring together lead practitioners to discuss, share and develop practice and understanding. It is suitable for practitioners working in both mainstream and specialist services.

Future dates

Thursday 27th June at Hertfordshire Development Centre Tuesday 9th July at Hertfordshire Development Centre

All courses are booked via email training-aet@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Autism Education Trust materials for schools, parents and carers

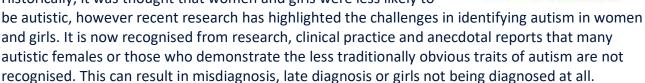
All Hertfordshire Schools should be using the Autism Education Trust self-audit materials, to ensure they are following the best practice in supporting children and young people on the autism spectrum.

Free materials are available on the website at http://www.aettraininghubs.org.uk/

Latest Information from the National Autistic Society

This month The NAS is focusing on Autism and girls. Go to the My World website for strategies to support autistic girls in the classroom.

Historically, it was thought that women and girls were less likely to





There is also an excellent video with Sarah Wild the Headteacher at Limpsfield Grange School, a residential school for girls, most of whom have a diagnosis of autism. Sarah discusses how single-sex schools can benefit autistic girls, how best to support them in the classroom and how to prepare them to transition out of school.

The ASD Resource library

We have a library of resources available for schools, settings and parents/carers to borrow for short term loan. They are kept at Fleetville Junior School. We are asking all settings and parents to return items that they have borrowed this year so that they can be used by others in the autumn term. Please contact admin@dspl7.org.uk if you have anything to return or if you would like to borrow any items.

Some of the many items that are available are listed below.



Weighted blankets

Use deep pressure touch simulation (DPTS) to relax the body and make the child feel safe and secure, which calms their unease and helps their body relax. The weight of the blanket stimulates the receptors on the body which then activates the neurotransmitters in the brain to bring a sense of happiness to the child.

Squeeze machine (body roller)

Used to apply deep pressure above and below the child to help relax the child and make them feel safe.





Ear Defenders

Ear defenders are often used to block out noise for people who are auditory sensitive. It is important to note you should only offer them if they are needed and wearing them too frequently can increase the issues around noise sensitivity

Pop up dark den

Versatile 'pop up' Sensory Pod ideal for environments where a full sensory room is not available. Use with projectors and light sources (not included). Provides safe and enclosed area for sensory exploration. The Sensory Pod folds easily away.





Inflatable Squease vests

Squease helps you manage stress, anxiety and sensory overload. When inflated, the deep pressure vest applies a firm hug-like pressure, giving you a pleasant, secure and safe feeling.

The Squease vest can help to avoid meltdowns and deal with crowded places and social situations

Assorted fiddle/sensory toys

Fidget toys are often used to provide sensory input in a less distracting way. They can help improve concentration and attention to tasks by allowing the brain to filter out the extra sensory information (e.g. listening to a lesson in the classroom, paying attention to a book during circle time).



Some forthcoming activities





DSPL 7 (ST ALBANS, HARPENDEN & VILLAGES)
TRAINING PROGRAMME

Simple Solutions Workshops with Sally Glossop 2018 –2019

Problem solving sessions for parents/carers of children and young people aged 0-25 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder



The final meeting for this academic year will take place on

Wednesday 10th July 2019

It will run from 7.00 pm-8.30 pm

Cost: Theseworkshops are funded by DSPL7, places are limited so please book, using the contact details below. Please note that if you do not book you cannot be notified if a meeting is cancelled.

Venue: St Albans Girls' School, Sandridgebury Lane, St Albans, AL3 6DB

Parking available in the visitors car park Entrance via the main reception

DSPL7

Booking line: 01727 519229 admin@dspl7.org.uk

DSPL Delivering Special Provision Locally Achieving quality outcomes

DSPL 7 (ST ALBANS, HARPENDEN & VILLAGES) TRAINING PROGRAMME

Simple Solutions Workshops with Sally Glossop 2019/2020

Problem solving sessions for parents/carers of children and young people aged 0-25 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder



All meetings take place on Wednesday evenings and run from 7.00 - 8.30pm

Dates for your diary; 18th September 2019 20th November 2019 29th January 2020 11th March 2020 13th May 2020 8th July 2020

Cost: These workshops are funded by DSPL7, places are limited so please book using the contact details below. Please note that if you do not book you cannot be notified if a meeting is cancelled.

Please note that there is a change of venue from September.

Venue: Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4LW.

> Parking available in the school car park Entrance via the main reception

DSPL7

Booking line: 01727 519229 admin@dspl7.org.uk



SUPPORT SESSIONS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN/YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A DIAGNOSIS OF ASC

These Surgeries are offered by Anne Pocock, Specialist Teacher for Autism and

Magda Glinkowska, Early Years Autism Specialist

We are offering Surgeries for Parents/Carers. You are welcome to attend any of the dates. For more information and to check availability, please call Vista St Albans CIC on 07584 798528 to book your 30 minutes appointment.

All Surgeries will take place at Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW. Times available are: 9.15am, 9.50am, 10.30am and

Summer Term 2019 - Consultation Dates:

Monday, 13th May 2019

Monday, 1st July 2019

This is an opportunity for Parents to discuss with a professional any concerns they may have about their child regarding home or school.

When you have booked an appointment, please do make sure that you turn up promptly for your session so that we do not keep anyone waiting. If for any reason you are unable to keep your appointment, please ring the above number in advance to cancel, so that your slot may then be allocated to others.

For more information about this service please feel free to call St Albans Plus on 01727 519 224
Email: vistastalbans@gmail.com

Website: www.vistastalbans.org.u

Being a parent can be challenging at times – we can offer individual support as well as a variety of information and

Children's Speech & Language Therapy

Courses for educational practitioners summer 2019

Elklan Elklan courses offer accredited training to school staff to help them in supporting pupils with speech, language and communication needs

As a result of attending the training it is hoped that school staff will feel more confident in supporting children at the universal and targeted levels within school, freeing up Therapist time to support those with specialist Speech, Language and Communication needs.

Elklan courses have been taught to many students and experience has shown that the support they receive from their work place is very important in helping participants apply their new skills more effectively. Following the attendance of staff on the accredited level 3 course there is also the possibility that schools may choose to undertake further training to gain whole school 'Communication Friendly' status in the future. DSPL7 is presently funding 2 schools in working



towards communication friendly status.

The cost is £300 per delegate per course, which includes accreditation fees and a Language Builders book.

DSPL 7 will fund half the cost of the course for learners attending from schools within DSPL 7 (unless you have already got 1 teacher and 2 TAs trained.). We will also fund half the cost for 1 person per PVI setting.

Early Years Course (3-5) will run over 7 weeks.

Venue	Dates	Time	
St Alban's Children's Centre, AL3 5JB	21st May & 11th June to 16th July	Tuesdays 9:30am - 11:30am	

Primary School Course (5-11 years) will run over 10 weeks

Practical advice and strategies to help you support your Primary aged pupils' development of Speech, Language and Communication skills.

Venue	enue Dates	
The Marlowes Health and Wellbeing Centre, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1LD	29th April - 15th July* *No course on 6th & 27th May	1.30 pm-3.30 pm



To register staff on their chosen course, please email Abigail Bude, Speech and Language Therapist, with the names of staff wishing to attend and their chosen location

Email abigail.bude@hct.nhs.uk for further information.

Speech and Language Therapy Advice Line

The speech and language website pages contain lots of information and help, however should you not find what you are looking for please leave a message on 01992 823093 and a Therapist will contact you. This advice line is available throughout the year, including the school holidays.



Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database (HAND)

HAND is Hertfordshire's database for young people who live in Hertfordshire, are aged 0-25, and whose additional needs and/or disabilities have a significant effect on their everyday life.

The young person is likely to need additional support, adjustment and/or adaptations at school and at home.

When you join HAND you will be sent a card which may help others understand your needs. The card is often accepted at leisure venues who may offer families a concession.



Families find their HAND cards really helpful and say having a HAND card often makes the difference between being able to participate in an outing and not going at all.

HAND is also an information service and publishes an online newsletter each month, "HAND SEND News".

Find more information about the service from the webpage https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/tell-us/hertfordshire-additional-needs-database.aspx

Please email hand@hertfordshire.gov.uk or call 01992 556984 for more information, or to request a supply of leaflets for your school.

Online Training courses for parents and professionals from Down Syndrome Education International



Down Syndrome Education International's online courses offer convenient and accessible guidance, support and advice to parents and professionals supporting children with Down syndrome worldwide.

D S E I now offers six online courses covering early intervention, education and speech therapy for children with Down syndrome from birth to 16 years.

"the high quality information included gives an overview of high quality practice for all young people with SEND and not just for young people with Down syndrome." (Senior Specialist Teacher, UK)

Find out more

Our courses are easily accessed over the Internet, offering cost-effective access to expert guidance and up-to-date information on language development, reading and literacy, number teaching, social development, inclusion and more.

They currently include:

- Supporting early development for children with Down syndrome from birth to 5 years
- Effective education for children with Down syndrome in school
- Implementing the Reading and Language Intervention for children with Down syndrome (RLI)
- Managing behaviour difficulties for children with Down syndrome
- Improving speech and language development for children and young people with <u>Down syndrome</u>

Down Syndrome Education International is a recognized leader in scientific research and evidence-based support for children with Down syndrome.

For over 30 years, they have conducted and supported research, provided expert training and support, and published specialist teaching resources and books. Today, their work helps over 100,000 parents and professionals around the world each year.

Down Syndrome Support

DSPL7 started offering advice, training and support to local pre-schools, nurseries, schools and Oakland's College in May 2014. The Down syndrome service includes annual advisory visits to schools and settings to give specific advice and guidance related to individual children and young people. During the past year DSPL7 funded visits for 24 young people.

The feedback is overwhelmingly positive;

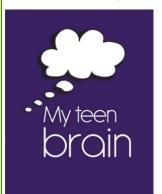
"The advisor is knowledgeable, she explains things in laymen's terms and helps to empower myself and my staff team. She is really encouraging and makes sensible and practical suggestions."

Training sessions have also been provided for professionals and parents.

Training to support Mental Health

Free Training: My teen Brain

My Teen Brain focuses on a key stage of brain development and shows how changes in the adolescent brain, in conjunction with experience and environment, can affect emotions,



relationships, behaviours, sleep and attitudes to risk.

The initiative aims to raise awareness and provide practical information and strategies to both parents/carers and professionals. Through training and a range of resources, the initiative will enable them to support young people through this time of change.

Professionals working with either young adolescents (10-14) or their parents are invited to attend a free one-day multi-agency training which will look at changes to the adolescent brain, risks and behaviours and how the learning can help a strength based approach to practice.

Dates available are:

- Wednesday 5th June 2019
- Wednesday 12th June 2019
- Tuesday 22nd October 2019
- Wednesday 13th November 2019
- Thursday 14th November 2019
- Wednesday 15th January 2020
- Thursday 16th January 2020

You can book onto the free one-day training here. (here. (<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/my-teen-brain-tickets-61863430185)

More Information on the changes that take place in the teen brain is available on our dedicated website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/myteenbrain.

Kitemark Workshops

As part of the follow up from the Healthy Young Minds in Herts – 'A whole school and college approach self-review and accreditation for emotional wellbeing, mental health and suicide awareness' launch event on the 3rd April, schools are offered the opportunity to attend a Kitemark workshop, 'Speed Dating' style.

The workshop will be for 3 hours during which protected time is provided where you will be able to share ideas with other schools around 'good practice' and review areas to work on in your own school or college setting. This should assist with completing the self-review process (RAG table) and provide an initial action plan for further discussion with key staff within your school/setting.

Workshop dates;

17thJune – Ware Priory in Ware

- 1. AM workshop 9.30am until 12.30pm
- 2. PM workshop 1.30pm until 4.30pm

11th July - Stanborough Centre in Watford

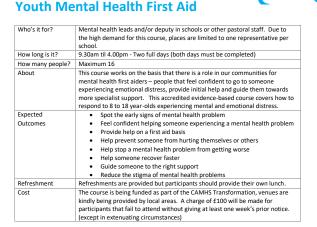
- 3. AM workshop 9.30am until 12.30pm
- 4. PM workshop 1.30pm until 4.30pm

26th September – Letchworth – venue tbc

- 5. AM workshop 9.30am until 12.30pm
- 6. PM workshop 1.30pm until 4.30pm

To book on to a workshop please email Sarah Chandler on SchoolMHTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk





Courses will run throughout the year Priority will be given to schools in each local area

Course number	Dates	Location	Course number	Dates	Location
1	11 th and 14 th June	Stevenage	11	6 th and 13 th December	Welwyn
2	21st and 28th June	Hoddesdon	12	16 th and 19 th December	Stevenage
3	2 nd and 10 th July	Watford	13	10 th and 17 th January	Broxbourne
4	5 th and 12 th July	St Albans	14	13 th and 16 th January	St Albans
5	6 th and 13 th September	Hemel Hempstead	15	24 th and 31 st January	Hemel Hempstead
6	20 th and 27 th September	Letchworth	16	7 th and 14 th February	Letchworth
7	4 th and 11 th October	Hatfield	17	10 th and 24 th February	Hatfield
8	18 th and 25 th October	Potters Bar	18	28th Feb and 6th March	Potters Bar
9	8 th and 15 th November	Ware	19	13 th and 20 th March	Ware
10	22 nd and 29 th November	Watford	20	26th and 27th March	Watford

To book a place on the course in your local area, please email SchoolMHTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk



East and North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group Clinical Commissioning Group

Herts Valleys



Training for Mental Health Leads

"Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) courses are for everyone who works with, lives with or supports young people aged 8-18. They will teach you the skills and confidence to spot the signs of mental health issues in a young person, offer first aid and guide them towards the support they need. In doing so, you can speed up a young person's recovery and stop a mental health issue from getting worse."

Please try to book a course within your DSPL. Priority will be given to schools who have not previously attended the course.

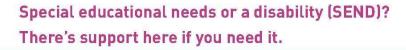
The Local Offer

Hertfordshire's SEND Local Offer is your one-stop shop for information, support, services and activities available for children and young people with special educational needs, and their families. The Local Offer has been created by parents and professionals.

Who it's for?

Children with a special educational need or disability (SEND), up to the age of 25. Parents, carers and other family members.

Professionals and organisations working with those with SEND and their families.





The Local Offer is here to help you



• Events & activities • Applying for education, health and care plan • Leaving school In Hertfordshire, our SEND Local Offer is your one stop shop for all the information and support for special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) you may need, as well as the services available.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer

1. LOCAL OFFER BLOG

The transforming SEND programme is about doing things better, and doing things differently from now on. Read our blog for more information on how we're improving the local offer online at:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/localofferblog



Help Shape SEND Services

2. SEND ONLINE FEEDBACK GROUP

Help shape SEND services by joining the SEND Online Feedback Group. Tell us what you think and we'll use what you say to make improvements at:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDonlinefeedbackgroup