

# “Now & Next”

## What has Dacorum DSPL been doing for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities?

### Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH)

SEMH and behaviour have been identified as priorities by head teachers.

#### We have:

- ◆ Worked alongside Dacorum Education Support Centre (DESC) and The Reddings Primary Support Base on their new Primary Behaviour Service, in response to feedback from Primary head teachers
- ◆ Continued to fund Hertfordshire Steps training in schools, an approach to supporting positive behaviour management which Hertfordshire County Council wants all schools in the County to use.
- ◆ Funded training for School Family Workers on mental health and strategies to help manage stress and anxiety in children, delivered by Step2
- ◆ Set up a Mental Health Working Group to look at common issues across the area and start to think about how they can be addressed. Representatives from Step2 and the Wellbeing Team are on this group.

### Speech, Language and Communication

Schools and settings are being asked to give more support to children and young people with speech, language and communication needs.

#### We are:

- ◆ Continuing to work with NHS Speech and Language, and Longdean Speech, Language and Communication Base, to fund and promote primary and secondary level ELKLAN accredited training.
- ◆ Offering early years ELKLAN accredited training. We piloted a course in the summer term for early years settings, including private nurseries and preschools. This was well attended with 100% of participants gaining their accreditation. We are running a second course this term which is fully booked.

### Special Schools

For the last two years, Dacorum schools have been able to access free outreach support from Colnbrook Special School in Watford.

#### We have:

- ◆ Communicated to schools that the support is available and they should make use of it
- ◆ Worked with Hertfordshire County Council on their review of outreach provision

## Autistic Spectrum Conditions, Asperger's and ADHD

Dacorum has a large number of children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC).

### We have:

- ◆ Run training with the County Communication and Autism Team and provided funding to set up lunchtime social skills groups in 30 primary schools, allowing children with autism and fellow pupils to interact while sharing common interests. The groups will run from October half term and each school will provide a case study at the end of the year.
- ◆ Recruited a DSPL SEND Lead and a DSPL SEND School Family Worker to support schools and families in the area. We are currently recruiting a second DSPL SEND School Family Worker. The DSPL SEND School Family Worker is already supporting over 20 families and is looking to set up parents' coffee mornings, and eventually groups for siblings.
- ◆ Worked with ADD-Vance to develop a system whereby families can receive funded coaching sessions with ADD-Vance counsellors—currently 20 families have had funding approved and are either receiving support or on the list.

### We will:

- ◆ Continue to work with Hertfordshire County Council on their cross County Autism strategy, including rolling out AET training to all schools
- ◆ Work with schools to ensure that they are following best practice guidelines
- ◆ Produce a leaflet for parents and carers of children pre and post diagnosis, giving advice on what support is on offer from your school, from the local authority and from local organisations and charities

## Supporting local SEND initiatives

We have invited all our settings to bid for small amounts of funding so that they can respond quickly to the individual needs of staff and pupils. Examples of things we've funded so far include:

- ◆ Protective Behaviours training in a secondary school
- ◆ Sensory rooms/ quiet rooms in three primary schools
- ◆ IT equipment and programmes for two children to allow them to communicate at school and at home
- ◆ A transition information workshop for schools run by Gade Family Services and Families in Focus
- ◆ Weight blankets and rollers for children at The Collett Special School

## What happens next?

**We need your input!**

**Please take the time to feed back to us throughout the day! You can:**

- ◆ **Complete a postcard**
- ◆ **Fill in an evaluation form**
- ◆ **Write on our 'You said... we did' poster in the foyer. This shows what we've been doing with the feedback from last year's conference. Please write your comments on it!**

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