

Minutes of Dacorum Area DSPL Board Meeting

Date: Wednesday 24th March 2021, 9:30am

Online meeting via Zoom

PRESENT:

David Fisher - Head, Kings Langley School and DSPL Dacorum Lead (Chair)
 Katharine Ellwood - Head, Greenway Primary and Nursery and DSPL Dacorum Operational Lead
 Richard Haynes – Head, Hobbs Hill Wood and DSPL Dacorum Operational Lead
 Sara Lalis - Head, Dacorum Education Support Centre (DESC)
 James Shapland - Head, Ashlyns School
 Jackie Hood – Head, Chaulden Infants and Nursery School
 Natasha Chiswell – Head, Aldbury Primary School
 Patricia Walker - ISL Area Manager - Professional Lead for SEND Specialist Advice & Support Service
 Sharon Coubray - County Specialism Lead SLCN & Autism and Area Lead, SEND SAS, ISL
 Rebecca Foster - Area Lead for SEND Teams in Apsley, ISL
 Natalie Long - Parent Representative
 Kate Hudson - Parent Representative
 Carole Hassell – DSPL8 & Partnership of Dacorum Schools Manager
 Ruth Mason – DSPL8 SEND Lead
 Ashley Fabray – DSPL8 & Partnership of Dacorum Schools Support Officer (Minutes)

Apologies Received

Suzanne Stace - Head, Westfield Primary School
 Jo Harris – Principal, Bedmond Academy
 Gill Waceba - Head, Woodfield School
 Joanne Summers – Deputy Principal Educational Psychologist: St Albans and Dacorum Team
 Hayley Yendell – Head, Heath Lane Nursery
 Tim Jordan – Deputy Headteacher, The Hemel Hempstead School
 Karen Rudman - Deputy Head of Family Support Services, InspireAll
 Alison McLauchlin – Parent Representative
 Danielle Jata-Hall – Parent Representative

Agenda Items	Actions
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions DF welcomed everyone to the meeting and all introduce themselves. Kate Hudson has joined the board meeting as a parent representative.</p> <p>2. Matters Arising from minutes of previous meetings 03.02.2021 RM has met with Arabella Mooney and is working with her to align the flow charts for Early Years support.</p> <p>All other actions were completed.</p> <p>Minutes were approved by DSPL Board as presented.</p> <p><u>Action – AF to request feedback from Jo Summer on her action below</u> <u>Action – JS to contact the Mental Health in schools Link to request an update on the services</u></p> <p>3. Covid-19 – Where are we now? The following updates were provided from schools and services:</p>	<p>AF JS</p>

DSPL – The team are back in the office once a week for team meeting and will increase their time after the Easter holiday. The team will review the online and face to face training offer for the Summer term. The Local Schools Partnership teams have plans in place to increase their time in the office and support to families.

Dacorum Education Support Centre – 60-70% of the learners have been onsite with the remainder attending from 8th March. Outreach workers and therapeutic services are working remotely and will increase to face to face when this is allowed. The counselling service is offering some face to face appointments following covid-19 guidance. SL raise a key issue with 4 learners who have an EHCP and are holding a place until a space becomes available for them at a special school.

Primary – The children have returned well and transition has been smooth. KE has had 100% attendance. The issues are the same as September with children are less engaged in the afternoons.

Parents – There have been concerns around mental health and anxiety in some children transitioning back to school. Children with EHCP's, who have been attending school during lockdown, have struggled with the increased number of children in class since the return to school. Autism and ADHD waiting list for assessments are increasing and parents are asking for private assessments, which has financial impact. Parents with young children have stalled the assessment stage. Issues raised on behalf of parents, by the parent's representatives are as follows:

1. A child with a one-to-one TA was asked to stay home whilst the staff member was not in school
2. A few schools in Dacorum have asked children to stay off school and stay on role and package of support at home has not been delivered
3. There is a lack of schools for children moving from mainstream and children not suitable for SEMH and LD schools; parents feel like there is nowhere for their children.

Agreed PW, KE and RH will raise these issues within their services and work streams and all are aware of issues around SEMH specialist provision. The local authority is looking at short term provision and in the long term new schools are planned, however will not be ready until 2023-24. PW shared a strategy in place for the planning specialist provision, which is working on identify need and provision, there is a clear plan and capital resources to support this.

SL raised a concern on special school permanent exclusions which DESC are currently providing the provision, however they do not have a specialist as they deal with mainstream schools. PW shared the local authority are currently exploring the support for special schools and will take this back to team. KE suggested the idea of buddy partners for special schools.

Action - PW, KE and RH will raise the issues from the parent representatives within their services and work streams

Action – AF to invite Adam Haynes and Richard Woodard to next board meeting to discuss planning specialist provision

PW, KE &
RH
AF

Secondary – transition for most secondary schools has gone well, with the lateral flow testing the biggest challenge. SEND students came into school before other students to familiarise themselves, which has worked well. There were concerns some learners found remote learning comfortable and would struggled to return to school, but this has not materialized.

4. Finance

a) Local School Partnership Budget 2020/21

RH reported the 2021 funding has been received and distributed. The budget for 2021-22 is similar to previous years. Both areas are notifying schools to include this in the school budgets. Dacorum Family Service North & East is working on a plan for schools who do not currently buy into the service to get them back on board.

b) DSPL budget 2020/21

The DSPL budget is on track and the finance report will be available in the summer term; this will include the funding grants sent to schools. Due to Covid-19, 20% of the budget can be carried over to the new financial year.

c) PoDS budget 2020/21

Dacorum Schools will only be invoiced for a small amount for the PoDS funding and CH is notifying the Headteachers.

All services are within budget. Dacorum Family Services East and West are spending up to their limit and there is very little underspend. Gade and King Langley Partnership have pulled all their resources together and the partnership is now more streamlined.

5. DSPL/PoDS Managers update & SEND Lead update:

a) DSPL strategic plan 2020-21

b) ELSA training

c) Partnership of Dacorum Schools

CH & RM presented a PowerPoint presentation on the DSPL update and a copy will be circulated with the minutes.

CH has raised with the local authority why some of the main presenting needs on EHCP's are blank.

Action – AF to circulate the DSPL presentation with the board minutes

6. DSPL updates

a) Autism sub Group

JH pre-submitted her sub group minutes and thanked RM and CH for all their hard work. There were no further questions.

b) Primary Behaviour Service

KE pre-submitted her board minutes and shared Adam Hayes and Richard Woodard attended the last board meeting. The data for primary schools with children on reduced timetables is highest for Dacorum, however this is due to the area report this correctly. SL has emailed the SEN team to raise the concern around children in the Haven who are holding places whilst waiting for a place at a special school. There is a new Inclusion Gateway Officer – Danielle Hewson for Dacorum Primary Schools and Jacqui Ellis is covering Secondary schools.

KE shared the Emotionally Based School Avoidance document, which DSPL will be sending to all schools and have upload to the DSPL website.

c) Mental Health sub group

SS pre-submitted her sub group minutes and there were no further questions.

d) Early Years Sub Group

HY pre-submitted her sub group minutes and there were no further questions.

e) School Family Worker sub group

RH explained the sub group only meeting once a term and this half term the School Family Work Forum met. Beezee Bodies presented on emerging obesity issues and RM shared there was good attendance, however none of the School based School Family Workers attended.

KH raised a concern for parents with children with SEND now attending a special school or attending a school out of area schools, are not receiving support from the School Family Worker services or are confused on what support they are entitled to. Agreed for RM and CH to request this is included as part of the DSPL/LSP review to provide clear and consistent support for high needs families.

Action - RM and CH to request the DSPL/LSP review to provide clear and consistent support for high needs families.

DF thanked the sub group Chairs.

7. ISL Update

a) ISL SEND SAS

PW, RF and SC presented a PowerPoint presentation on the ISL update and a copy will be circulated with the minutes.

RM raised the following questions:

- *For phased transfers are there any children in year 6 are without a school place for year 7?*
RF is aware of a few children who do not have a special school name, but is confident they will have this by September
- *Secondary SENCo's struggled with the co-ordination for the process and received multiple applications on a short time frame, could this be looked at for next year?*
RF team has reflected on this and will work on the co-ordination for next year. The team also feeds into the work-stream for send transition and work closely with ISL colleagues.
- *Secondary Schools struggle with Outreach and cognition and learning, as Woodfield Outreach services does not offer support in Secondary schools.*
PW will raise this gap with Adam Hayes services and SEND SAS. The SPLD offer is being reviewed and PW will provide further update when this is available.

Action – AF to circulate the ISL presentation with the board minutes

b) Educational Psychology Service

Jo Summers was not present at this board meeting.

8. AOB

DF thanked everyone for their attendance at this meeting.

Dates for Board meetings 2020/21:

Wednesday	19.05.2021	9:30-11:30am
Wednesday	07.07.2021	9:30-11:30am

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10:45am