

## Minutes of Dacorum Area DSPL Board Meeting

**Date: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 9:30am**

**Online meeting via Zoom**

### **Present:**

David Fisher - Head, Kings Langley School and DSPL Dacorum Lead (Chair)  
 Hayley Yendell - Head, Heath Lane Nursery  
 James Shapland - Head, Ashlyns School  
 Natasha Chiswell - Head, Aldbury Primary School  
 Angela Hughes - Head, George Street Primary School  
 Sue Dyer - Head, Hobletts Manor Infant & nursery School  
 Kayley Johnson - SEND Lead, Dacorum Family Centre Service  
 Sue Sheffield - ISL Area Manager, St Albans and Dacorum  
 Kate Hudson - Parent Representative  
 Mel Stanley - DSPL8 Volunteer  
 Carole Hassell - DSPL8 & Partnership of Dacorum Schools Manager  
 Ruth Mason - DSPL8 SEND Lead  
 Ashley Fabray - DSPL8 & Partnership of Dacorum Schools Support Officer (Minutes)

### **In Attendance:**

Philomena Di Leo, IMPOWER Consultant  
 Joel Trounce, IMPOWER Consultant  
 Tom Spencer, IMPOWER Consultant  
 Cara Corbett IMPOWER Consultant

### **Apologies Received:**

Richard Haynes - Head, Hobbs Hill Wood and DSPL Dacorum Operational Lead  
 Katharine Ellwood - Head, Greenway Primary and Nursery and DSPL Dacorum Operational Lead  
 Jo Harris - Principal, Bedmond Academy  
 Ian Burgess - Special School Assistant Head, Woodfield School  
 Sara Lalis - Head, Dacorum Education Support Centre (DESC)  
 Tim Jordan - Deputy Headteacher, The Hemel Hempstead School  
 Kayley Johnson - SEND Lead, Dacorum Family Centre Service  
 Melanie Flay - Principal Educational Psychologist (West)/Strategic Lead (ISL)  
 Sharon Coubray - County Specialism Lead SLCN & Autism and Area Lead, SEND SAS, ISL  
 Rebecca Foster - Area Lead for SEND Teams in Apsley, ISL  
 Deena Wallworth - Specialism Lead for Early Years and Local Area Lead, ISL

Agenda Items	Actions
<p><b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>            DF welcomed IMPOWER Consultants and introductions were made.</p> <p><b>2. Valuing SEND: IMPOWER</b>            Philomena Di Leo, Joel Trounce, Tom Spencer, Cara Corbett attended the board meeting to present: Valuing SEND Introduction and Ask SALI Update (SEND Advice Line for Inclusion). A copy of the presentation will be circulated with the minutes. Discussions points raised following the presentation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>V-SEND training is currently working with a fixed cohort in DSPL8 across 8 settings, with 4 already confirmed. There are no expectations on schools and following the trial, the impact will be evaluated with HCC and then they will consider what the offer looks like and how to roll it out effectively, with a slow soft roll out across the county.</li> <li>Outcomes and progress can be tracked using the tool, which includes helpful prompts and</li> </ul>	

an expectation on timescales. Schools can also include trackable targets.

- V-SEND is an online tool accessed on a webpage.
- Measuring the success and impact of the Ask SALI help line will be done by advisers capturing data from what requests are coming into the helpline and asking if support has enabled inclusive practice and schools feel confident to meet need. Long term measures will also be put in place.
- Ask SALI advisers will be specialists, to be able to resolve issues and will be clear on what services are available, where to sign-post to and keep update on what is available across the county to avoid duplicating services like SENDIASS.
- There will be no extra license/user costs to schools when this is rolled out to all schools, as this is part of the SEND transformation program.
- IMPOWER have been running for 20 years and V-Send was developed in 2018, they have worked with lots of Local Authorities and are a public sector consultancy funded by private backers.
- Heads have raised concerns the service is not integrated and this would be adding more work for SENCo's. The idea of V-SEND is to look at initiatives to support schools to look at their intervention and how well staff know about interventions, the digital EHCP will fit well with digital V-SEND and hopefully it will all work together and help schools.

DF thanked IMPOWER for their presentation and suggested for board members to review the presentation and come back with any further comments to the next board meeting.

**Action – AF to share a copy of the V-SEND & Ask SALI presentation**

**Action – DF to invite IMPOWER to present on V-Send and Ask SALI at a Secondary DASH meeting**

AF  
DF

### **3. Matters Arising from minutes of previous meetings 23.03.2022**

Jackie Hood has passed on her thanks for the flowers received.

All other actions have been completed.

**Minutes were approved by DSPL Board as presented.**

### **4. Finance**

#### **a) Local School Partnership Budget 2021/22 update**

The LSP budget has been received with a slight increase. Gade and Kings Langley Partnership are now fully staffed after appointing a new School Family Worker and Pupil Support Worker. The partnership has 100% buy in from schools and are within budget with a small surplus, which will carry over into next year.

DFS are also fully staffed, with only 4 schools not buying in. CH provided further updates on both budgets in the DSPL8 presentation, which will be circulated with the minutes.

#### **b) DSPL budget 2021/22**

CH provided an update on the DSPL budget in the DSPL8 presentation.

#### **c) PoDS budget 2021/22**

CH provide an update on the DSPL budget in the DSPL8 presentation and board members agreed to revert back to the original PoDS fee of £100 conference fee and 60p per pupil.

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

CH/RM presented a PowerPoint presentation on the DSPL8 update and a copy will be circulated with the minutes. The following comments were discussed:

- The data from the funded post for DFS has had a drop in case numbers due to a period with no SEND School Family Workers, whilst they were being recruited and also the Pupil Support Workers operate differently across the two services.

### Action – AF to circulate the DSPL8/PoDS presentation with the minutes

## 6. DSPL updates

### a) Autism sub Group

This sub group had as strong secondary representation however, was not very well attended by other members this month. The group rag rated the action plan, with success in most areas. The only area of concern is the adventure playground are no longer offering the Autism youth group and sibling youth group, due to inconsistent attendance and issues around managing the group. The adventure playground is now looking to organising a family SEND club on a Saturday. RM will be recruiting more Primary representatives and the sub group still requires a Chair. The group overviews the mentoring group, which is evaluating and reviewing the training for the mentors.

### b) Primary Behaviour Service

The sub group action plan update was pre-submitted and there were no further questions.

### c) Mental Health sub group

This sub group has not met this half term.

### d) Early Years Sub Group

This sub group has not met this half term.

### e) School Family Worker sub group

The sub group action plan update was pre-submitted and there were no further questions.

## 7. ISL Update

### a) ISL SEND SAS

SS provided the following update for SEND SAS:

- The new SEND structure was implement on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- Feedback has been received that not much has changed yet. A big recruitment drive is currently taking place and new coordinators are in place, and it might not be until July until schools see a significant difference in the changes taken place.
- The SEND restructure was included in the ISL newsletters, however schools have fed back they have not seen it. SS has request for a 1-page document to be created to include all the relevant information.
- There are now 3 Teams:
  1. Assessment and SEND Front door service: [ehcneedsassessment@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ehcneedsassessment@hertfordshire.gov.uk)
  2. Provision outcomes and placement: [annualreviewswest@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:annualreviewswest@hertfordshire.gov.uk)
  3. Resolution and reconciliation: [ehcp@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ehcp@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Email queries can be sent to the above teams and they will be directed to the right person.
- The teams are all working very hard and will be fully operational by September.
- The banding descriptor training for HNF is currently taking place, which is face to face and online training. The online training will also be recorded for anyone unable to attend. Feedback from parent/carers was the face to face sessions were not at a convenient time,

however, this was the only time available to organise the training and SS asked KH to pass on apologies to parent/carers.

- Feedback received at the Information Fayre was parent/carers calling the advice line have been told they do not have a named officer, which is a mis-communication as everyone has a named office and Su Hurren has raised this with the Team.
- ISL clarified that although ISL appear not integrated on the ground, she can confirm there are lots of different Teams behind the scenes acting in an integrated way, working together to resolve issues. SS offered to meeting with DF and JS to discuss concerns raised at the Secondary DASH meeting, to take back to the teams to work on how to show a more integrated service.

KH shared details of a webinar taking place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May regarding the new SEND structure, which is aim at parent/carers, however is open to everyone. KH also shared the link to a blog which has an overview of the new structure and contact details for the SEND restructure:  
<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/feedback/local-offer-blog/improving-statutory-send-in-hertfordshire.aspx>

DF asked SS to present an update on how the new SEND structure is being embedded in the next Board meeting.

**Action – SS to present an update on how the new SEND structure is being embedded at the next Board meeting**

#### **4. AOB**

**None**

**Dates for Board meetings 2021/22:**

**Wednesday      13.07.2022      9:30am**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.55am