

Achieving quality outcomes

DSPL3 News

Well I am not quite sure where this half-term has gone! Things have been busy for DSPL3:

Our Autism Review Working Group has been formed. It is made up of parents, our Autism Family Support workers, Headteachers and SENCOs from settings across the age range. Attendees at last week's conference have provided us with some useful feedback as we begin to move forward with the Key Recommendations of the review. We will keep you updated about the progress of this group via 'DSPL3 News'.

The three DSPL3 Parent Reps and I have been very busy planning the SEND Information Village. We now have over 40 organisations attending so it promises to be a great event.

Over seventy members of staff from a wide range of settings across the area attended our Annual SENCO Conference last week.

Thirty practitioners have attended Foundation Makaton Training, with another fifteen attending in November. We are currently organising Enhanced Training for the Spring Term. We will be asking parents if they would like us to organise Parent Makaton Training.

Thirteen settings have received WellComm Speech and Language Screening training, with fifteen more attending training in November. In fact, by the end of January 2016 sixty-four settings across DSPL3 will be using WellComm and we know that we have enough interest to have Tranche 6 in March 2016.

Eighteen people have attended Protective Behaviours Training.

Look out for reports about the outcomes and impact of DSPL3 activities in future newsletters.

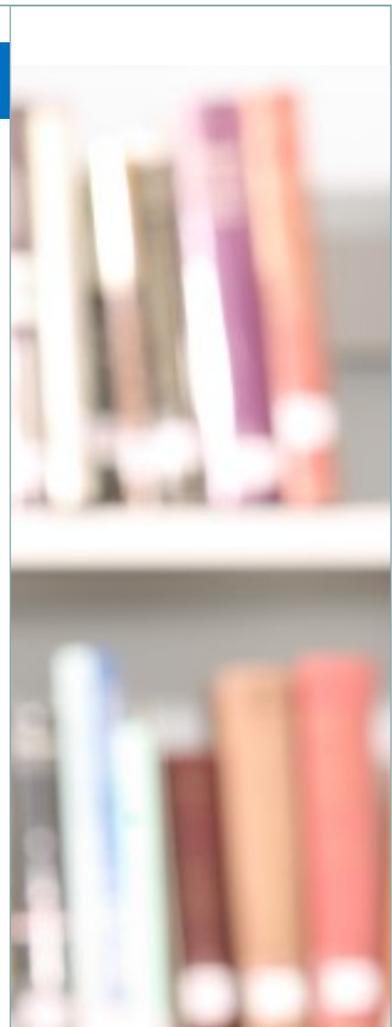
WHY GET INVOLVED IN DSPL3?

'In recent years, there has been a growing awareness that schools cannot act in isolation. We see in the government's promotion of Multi-Academy Trusts, a realisation that schools need to learn from and support each other. Additionally, schools have a strong track record of being able to positively influence the services on which a significant number of our students depend. Schools can act as a proxy for young people; giving stakeholder experience that shapes service delivery.

At a time when we are seeing increased demand on our schools from young people with a wide range of needs, headteachers recognise the imperative to improve the understanding of special needs within their own staff groups and also to support the quality of delivery of services to these students by others. DSPL is the direct way in which schools can seek support in improving their own provision and also drive improvement in the services around them. For headteachers who see system leadership as part of their role, support for their local DSPL group is essential.'

Nick Binder

Chair of DSPL3 Management Group and Headteacher of The Sele School, Hertford



WATCH THIS SPACE

Planning is going well for our 'Local SEND Services Information Village' to be held at Wodson Park, Ware from 1.00 - 5.00 p.m. on **Tuesday 26th January 2016**. This will be an opportunity for parents and professionals to come and meet a range of support service providers and find out what they can offer. Over 40 organisations have already signed up to be there.

Look out for some dates for Level 2 Autism Education Trust training, suitable for teachers and support staff.

Sensory Attachment Training is being arranged for early 2016, invaluable for staff working with Children Looked After and Adopted Children.

SPLD REVIEW

A Review of Hertfordshire's Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) Services and Provision has taken place and the report is now available for providers, service users and stakeholders to read.

The report was considered at the last SEND Executive Board meeting where it was agreed there was enough evidence to conclude that there are different issues for secondary and primary.

The evidence indicates there is not a continuing need for the secondary base provision and discussions are underway with providers and stakeholders for the secondary bases and planning next steps.

Further work regarding the options for primary provision is planned with a stakeholder workstream to shape up a recommendation for the Executive Board to consider at the next meeting.

If you wish to read the review follow this link: <http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/s/SpLDRReview2015.pdf>



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AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT WORKERS

Our two Autism Family Support Workers, Sarah Clifton and Sandy McParland started in their new roles on 19th October. So far, they have attended Makaton training, spent time observing learning in Amwell View School, prepared resources, developed systems and have already made contact with the first families they are going to support. There is no doubt that they are going to be busy!

A flier has gone out about the meetings for parents and SENCOs to meet Sarah and Sandy, find out more about the role and learn how to make a request for support. Here are the dates and venues:

Wednesday 4th November, 10.00 – 11.30 a.m.
Bengeo Primary School, The Avenue, Bengeo, SG14 3DX

Friday 6th November, 1.00 – 2.30 p.m.
Thorley Pre School, Vicerons Place, Villiers-Sur-Marne, Thorley Park, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 4EL

Monday 9th November, 9.30 – 11.00 a.m.
Ralph Sadleir Middle School, Station Road, Puckeridge, SG11 1TF

Tuesday 10th November, 1.00 – 2.30 p.m.
Bobtails, 8 Roydon Rd, Stanstead Abbots, Ware SG12 8EZ

Please drop me an email dspl3manager@sele.herts.sch.uk if you are planning on attending one of the sessions



SENCO CONFERENCE

Over seventy practitioners from across the age range attended last week's SENCO Conference on 'Anxiety'

Naina Cowell and Ceri Roberts, from the Educational Psychology Team, started the day with a session about 'Reducing Our Own Anxiety'. This was followed by an introduction to 'Mindfulness - Helping Children to Reduce their Anxiety' led by Jayne Wright, PSHCE Education Adviser. After lunch Fiona Benjamin, Director of Families Feeling Safe, encouraged us to consider 'Unwritten Rules and the Effect on Feelings.' We were then joined by Dr Annie Swanepoel, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, East Herts Specialist CAMHS who shared with us some of her ideas about 'Containing Anxiety of Parents'.

Evaluations indicate that the Conference was generally very well received: 'The course venue and speakers were brilliant. I found the day informative and it has given me lots of thoughts and ideas for creating 'mindful' students in school. Anxiety is such a common hurdle for lots of children and it was useful to hear of some strategies to support them. Thank you.'

'Thank you Kerry for organising this conference. I really enjoyed the venue and all the networking opportunities. I feel I gained a lot—I've already used some of my knowledge this week.'

Provisional date for 2016 Conference is Friday 14th October 2016!

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions for articles for future issues. Please send your comments or suggestions to Kerry Scripps, dspl3manager@sele.herts.sch.uk