

Friday 24 April 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to introduce myself. My name is Debbie Shirley and I am the Headteacher at Homerswood Primary School, which is the lead school for Area 5 of Delivering Special Provision Locally.

What is Delivering Special Provision Locally (DSPL)?

DSPL is a Hertfordshire-wide partnership approach where parents, staff in early years settings and schools, further education colleges, local authority officers and representatives from other agencies, work together as part of an Area Group, reviewing and developing the range of provision and support services available to their local community that :

- Meets the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), aged 0-25, as close to home as possible.
- Improves outcomes for wellbeing and attainment
- Widens choice for children and parents/carers
- Removes barriers to learning
- Uses resources more effectively

There are nine DSPL Area Groups across the county that meet regularly to discuss what services are available and to influence how services are shaped and developed to ensure the children and young people with SEND in their area receive the right support in their educational activities.

What do we do?

In Area 5, which covers both Hatfield and Welwyn, a group of professionals meet once a half term as a steering group. Through this we aim to oversee three action groups which are focused on improving and monitoring the provision for all pupils from 0 to 25 in the area.

The first group focus is Behaviour and Nurture. This year it is focused on completing a primary behaviour review, and ensuring that Nurture Funding is released to those already providing Nurture programmes or those who would like to.

The second group focus is Advisory Support. This year it is focused on evaluating the SENCo support offered, the development of support groups for parents, evaluation of the need for advisory teachers and evaluation of parent workshops.

The third group will focus on Transition. It will include the development of Early Years provision, looking at secondary school transition and ensuring it is consistent and supporting the in-year transition of pupils with SEND including those going into Home Education.

In order for the steering group to make the best choices and decisions for your children, we need to have good representation and engagement from parents.

As such I shall be writing to you each term to update you on the work of DSPL and how you could get involved. Accompanying this letter is the first edition.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself at head@homerswood.herts.sch.uk or Rod Woodhouse on rodwoodhouse@btinternet.com if you would like more information or to give us any feedback.

I look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely



Debbie Shirley
DSPL Lead

Summer Term 2015 : Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an exciting two terms for DSPL Area 5! In September 2015 a new lead school, Homerswood Primary School, started. Three action groups have been organised to support the work of DSPL in this area and we are looking forward to reaping the rewards of this improved structure.

Look below for some of the actions

Schools and settings applied for Nurture Funding. 18 applications were received from various types of settings. £46,000 was allocated to a total of 10 settings and 2 more applications are awaiting review.
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The Annual DSPL Conference was held on Friday 27 January. Speakers and professionals from Hertfordshire and further afield shared projects and ideas! Over 80 delegates attended and 13 were parents. Great feedback was received which can be viewed on our website.

Website and Blog have been launched. You can view these at http://dspl-welhat.org.uk and www.facebook.com/DSPL5 You can also access them via links on your child's school website.

We would love to have 2 or 3 Parent Representatives on the steering group. Currently we only have one. Please do email head@homerswood.herts.sch.uk if you are interested in this opportunity and discuss the commitment further.

We are currently updating a register of schools that hold the Inclusion Quality Mark. This is an award that can be sought by settings to develop/recognise their Inclusive Practice.
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The group has ensured that the support from Woolgrove (Special School Outreach work), is being used and is effective. Any parental views on this support would be appreciated. Please email rodwoodhouse@btinternet.com .
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A useful Secondary Transition leaflet has been developed for distribution to parents later this term.

Many courses have been run this term for parents and professionals. To name a few :

Elklan, An Early Years Speech and Language support programme for settings Nurture Training, to develop nurture practice in settings ASD ADD-Vance courses, to support parents of children on the Autism spectrum.

Support of parent support groups such as SNIPS. Re-launch of this support group in September 2014.

Our overall strategic plan is nearing completion. We shall publish it on the website when

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