

Horsham Dedicated Schools Team

Summer Term Key Messages



Dedicated Schools Team Focus

Early Help recognises that our colleagues in schools play a crucial role in spotting the early indicators where children, young people and families may benefit from additional support. The DST support schools by discussing children and young people where there is an emerging need, and then providing guidance and recommendations to school, sometimes carrying out direct work, to try to reduce the issue. The aim is for us to identify needs at the earliest opportunity to try to prevent worries becoming entrenched.

Key Points to Consider:

It is important to bear in mind that DST support falls between level 1 and level 2 on the continuum of need. We are here to discuss those children and young people where you are seeing a new or emerging need. If we feel that the need is higher or more complex, we can support you to complete a referral to IFD.

Early Help is a consent based service so please seek this from parents before discussing a child with us.

If a family are already on an EHP, CIN or CP, the family will have an allocated worker and any discussions about the family should be directly with the allocated worker.

DST Remit

Discussions With Schools

Your DST Link Worker will hold Early Help Consultations with you on at least a termly basis. Should you require DST support outside of this, please reach out to your link worker for ad hoc support.

DST Direct Work

We can complete short pieces of direct work with a child, young person or parent to support with low level concerns. The team will also be happy to meet parents alongside you at school to explore whole family support needs and agree best next steps.

DST KEY AREAS

We use our key areas (listed on the right side of this flyer) to identify early needs. We want to talk to you about children as their needs emerge (for example, when a child's attendance drops to 85-90%), which will allow us time to implement support.



Welcome back for the Summer Term! Last term our team held over 52 Early Help Consultations with our Horsham Schools and had 627 conversations about your pupils during these. We look forward to these discussions this term - please contact your link worker to get us booked in!

Message from Team Manager-Corina Gibson



We are now using a "padlet" platform for our school colleagues where we add new information and resources for school staff. We will be keeping this resource live and updated so please do check it regularly



DST KEY AREAS
The 6 areas we use to identify early needs are:

TRANSITIONS

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY

PHYSICAL HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

NEGLECT

ATTENDANCE

TARGETED INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT

This term we will be talking to our schools about pupils who are moving on and may need support with transitions
You can find resources on this on our padlet

EBSA is a broad term to describe a group of young people who experience significant difficulties in attending school due to emotional factors

This guidance has been produced by the Educational Psychology Service and is based on the current evidence base of the factors which are associated with positive outcomes

The WSSCP is delivering free face to face 'Train the trainer' morning sessions
Attending this training will enable you to:

- give clarity to what a chronology is in the context of your organisation.
- explain why a chronology is important in helping to bring the children's lived experiences to life.
- share the information from this training with colleagues from within your organisation

Training Dates:

- 13th June 2025
- 25th September 2025
- 18th December 2025

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Information for school staff



Are you worried about self-harm?

The information available on these pages is designed to inform you of the latest self-harm resources and offers available in West Sussex and is all free to download

Are you supporting children and young people using English as an additional language?

The Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) have prepared some guidance that might be helpful to understand the distinctiveness of EAL learners and key considerations in EAL support.

Our special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) toolkit has been co-written with schools, early years providers, post 16 education settings, parent carers and other professionals

The toolkit is designed to be used alongside the OAIP

Contextual Safeguarding

You can learn more about contextual safeguarding, including different forms of extra familial harm by completing the

West Sussex Contextual Safeguarding eLearning course or by visiting the national Contextual Safeguarding programme website

There is a wealth of information and resource to help practitioners to feel more confident working contextually.

These include policy and practice guidance as well as tools to use along with webinars and learning opportunities to develop confidence and competence.

Contextual Safeguarding resources for Education Professionals

The Ordinarily Available Inclusive Practice (OAIP) has just been reviewed, refreshed and republished

IFD INFO CHECKS

Should you require updates on open referrals/interventions, please contact

ifdinfochecks@westsussex.gov.uk

- **you will require parental consent to obtain this information.**

IFD PORTAL

If, following a discussion with your link worker or a meeting with parents and DST, consent is gained for a targeted support intervention, then an IFD Portal referral should follow. Please make it very clear on your referral that you have had a discussion with your link worker about the threshold and level of support required. If agreement for an intervention has been gained, please include this explicitly on the referral to avoid delays and enable the referral to move swiftly through the IFD.

Horsham Dedicated Schools Team

Information for parents/carers-feel free to add to your school's website:

Is your child changing schools?

We have produced a booklet called "Moving on Up" that your school can provide you which contains lots of useful activities to complete with your child to prepare them for the change between primary and secondary school

There are also these Return to school planning tools

For older students: <https://schools.westsussex.gov.uk/Pages/Download/35bbded9-7220-41e1-8930-c2778bc5beaf/PageSectionDocuments>

For younger students: <https://schools.westsussex.gov.uk/Pages/Download/ef721f82-b333-414a-a2e8-11ac1712da7c/PageSectionDocuments>

In addition, if you are a primary school whose pupils feed into Tanbridge House School, Bohunt, Millais or The Forest; HDC, DST and partners are running a course for parents of children moving into Year 7 at those schools next term.

The course aims to help parents understand some of the challenges that they may face as their children become more independent and how effective communication and an understanding of teenage behaviour can help parents support them through this difficult period of their lives. Parents would be expected to attend all three sessions.

[Growing Your Teenager course | Horsham District Council](#)

Is your child worried about exams?

There is some useful information to support them and you on these sites:

[How to deal with exam anxiety :: Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust](#)

<https://www.sussexcamhs.nhs.uk/resources/common-problems-and-life-issues/school-college-and-exams?back=276>

[Exam stress and pressure | Childline](#)

[Your Mind Matters - West Sussex County Council](#)

<https://capafirstresponse.org/connection-revision-gcse-teens/>

[Are you worried about the safety of your child in the community?](#)

Tips on staying safe when out and about

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/your-space/support/personal-safety/stay-safe/>

When your child is deliberately self-harming it can be upsetting, but it is important to talk openly to them and explore the functions of the behaviours. This link will help you with those conversations

[Has your family been affected by bereavement? There are a number of services that may be able to help:](#)

[Winston's Wish - Bereavement Support for Children](#)

Talk Grief-for young people age 13-25

<https://www.talkgrief.org/>

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/local-services/south/west-sussex>

[Brake | The Road Safety Charity](#)