Children and Young People’s Autism Service

The first of our ‘Introduction to autism’ sessions will be held on Thursday 28 November from 9.30am-12.30pm at Rugeley Community Centre, Burnthill Lane, Rugeley, WS15 2HX.

Please be aware that sessions will only be open to parents in possession of a full or working autism diagnosis for their child. The event will provide more information on the difficulties that are commonly seen in children with autism, alongside recommendations on how the team can support this.

Places are limited and parents wishing to attend are asked to contact the service directly on 300 303 0691 or email cypautismservice@mpft.nhs.uk to register. This will be on a first come, first served basis and a copy of the child’s diagnosis will be required when registering.

A drop-in clinic will be held following the session between 1pm-4pm. It will be open to any family with a full or working diagnosis and provide advice or information, with no requirement for an appointment needed.

A further session is being arranged to take place on Wednesday 4 December in Tamworth and more details will be shared shortly.

During the past week, we have offered a number of appointments to patients and families/carers waiting to commence or continue an intervention, which were not attended. We recognise it is half term and may have been short notice for some of these appointments.

The service is keen that every appointment is filled and, in response, will be sending a letter to those on the interventions waiting list asking for confirmation that the parent/carer still wishes for their child to receive an intervention. Should no response be forthcoming to this letter then the service will take the individual off the waiting list. The patient can be re-added should the parent/carer get in touch at a later date.

A text reminder service has also been set up this week to reduce the risk of any further ‘do not attends’ for intervention-based appointments.

We’re pleased to report that initial assessments will be getting underway next week, with further surgeries and clinics being held in Lichfield and Stafford.

As mentioned last week, anyone who has not received any correspondence from the service and believes they should have been contacted is asked to call 0300 303 0691 (between the hours of 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday) or email cypautismservice@mpft.nhs.uk.

The service web page features:

- Referral information (NB: Referrals into the service can only be made by a professional who has met with the child and family)
- Frequently asked questions that provide more information both to current and new users of the service
- Information should urgent help be required
- Contact details for a number of other useful services and organisations
- Previous weekly updates.

If you need urgent help between the hours of 9am-5pm from Monday to Friday, you can contact the Single Point of Access directly on 0300 303 0691, or call First Response (social care and health) on 0800 1313 126.

If you need urgent help out of hours (evenings, weekends or bank holidays) please contact:

- NHS 111, who have access to on-call mental health professionals; or the
- First Response Emergency Duty Team on 0345 604 2886

In the event of a medical emergency please go straight to A&E.

Should a parent/carer have a specific question relating to the care of their child, we ask that they email [cypautismservice@mpft.nhs.uk](mailto:cypautismservice@mpft.nhs.uk). For more general queries or concerns please contact PALS by:

- Email: [palsandexperience@mpft.nhs.uk](mailto:palsandexperience@mpft.nhs.uk)
- Telephone: 01785 783026