Children and Young People’s Autism Service

The team has a daily clinical duty worker on hand to offer urgent telephone advice. We have seen an increase in calls for support as well as enquiries about supportive services. We welcome parents contacting us, as this allows a conversation about a child’s needs. Please see overleaf for details about accessing the service.

The team has started autism assessments for families, including cognitive assessments, school observations and liaison & parental diagnostic interviews. We will contact you before assessments are planned to start. The team is also providing interventions, both initial interventions and a continuation of care provided prior to the transfer.

We continue to successfully grow our team and each new member of the team is serving to enhance the level of support we are able to offer families who are awaiting assessments and interventions.

This week, the team was delighted to deliver a workshop about ‘Understanding sensory processing in children with autism – parent/carer’. This session was held in Stafford and covered basic theory of sensory processing and help with identifying sensory behaviours in children with autism; thinking about strategies parents can use and developing understanding to help improve functioning in activities of everyday life. Parents reported that this session was both valuable and welcoming, stating ‘Great information on why struggles occur’, ‘Discussions and feedback was really informative’, ‘Really good to see how this impacts on my child’s day’. The photos below were taken at the workshop.

In case you missed this last week, the team is also developing a new workshop scheduled for January entitled ‘Me, Myself and Autism’, targeted at children and young people aged 9-14. This will focus on understanding autism for the child, difficulties that may affect them and advice & support on how to manage these issues. We will provide further information within future updates and on our website.
Members of the team have attended BLAST, a Parent Support Group in Burntwood. 20 parents attended this event and it was a really good opportunity for the team to speak directly to parents, gain feedback and review what their specific needs are, both short and long-term. We welcome this opportunity and plan to meet more parent groups. We once again, wish to thank families for their patience during this time.

**Contacting the service**

The service can be contacted on 0300 303 0691, 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays) or by email at cypautismservice@mpft.nhs.uk.


This features:

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

If you need urgent help between the hours of 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday, you can contact the Single Point of Access on 0300 303 0691 or 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 they email cypautismservice@mpft.nhs.uk.

The Trust's Customer Services Team is also available for advice and support and provides information on NHS and social care services. They can be contacted by:

- Email: palsandexperience@mpft.nhs.uk
- Telephone: 01785 783026
- A website form is also available by clicking here