Stakeholder update

Children and Young People’s Autism Service

Our first ‘Introduction to autism’ workshop takes place next Thursday (28 November) from 9.30am-12.30pm at Rugeley Community Centre in Burnthill Lane, Rugeley, WS15 2HX.

There are still places available both for this session and the workshop on Wednesday 4 December from 9.30am-12.30pm at St Peter’s Church in Hawksworth, Tamworth, B77 2HH. These sessions aim to 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 also available for our ‘Understanding sensory processing in children with autism – parent/carer’ workshop on Thursday 5 December from 10am-12.30pm at Families First Children’s Centre, Faraday Road, Stafford, ST16 3NQ. This session will cover 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.

As a reminder, these sessions are only open to parents in possession of a full or working autism diagnosis for their child and those wishing to attend are asked to contact the service directly on 0300 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.

Also, don’t forget about our drop-in clinic on Thursday 28 November from 1-4pm at Rugeley Community Centre in Burnthill Lane, Rugeley, WS15 2HX. This will be open to any family with a full or working diagnosis and provide advice or information, with no requirement for an appointment needed.

We have been holding interviews this week and have further scheduled for next week to recruit new clinicians, including an Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist and additional assistant psychologists to bolster the team.

Observations and cognitive assessments have commenced for schools in Cannock this week. The team have updated their approach by holding observations on one day and cognitions on another day – this helps to make the assessment process more efficient and enables clinicians and assistant psychologists to maximise the time they spend in schools.

Finally this week, the service continues to be busy receiving referrals for new assessments and interventions. Each referral we receive is important to us and we continue to prioritise assessments and interventions based on the length of time the family have been waiting and the level of clinical need.
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22 November 2019

Contacting the service
The service can be contacted by calling 0300 303 0691 between the hours of 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays). The team can also be accessed by email at cypautismservice@mpft.nhs.uk.

More information about the service can be found via MPFT’s website at www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people-autism-service. 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
- Workshop information
- 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. For more general queries or concerns please contact PALS by:

- Email: palsandexperience@mpft.nhs.uk
- Telephone: 01785 783026
- Website form: www.mpft.nhs.uk/service-users-carers/complaints-concerns-and-compliments