Children and Young People’s Autism Service

As the festive season approaches, we would very much like to thank each family for their patience, understanding and support.

The provision of quality care remains our number one priority and we continue to work as hard as we can to ensure families receive appointments for assessment and interventions in as timely a fashion as possible.

Education is also an important part of our role and we look forward to holding further workshops in 2020 for young people and their patents/carers, starting with the ‘Me, Myself and Autism’ workshop aimed at children and young people aged 9-14.

This is a two-session workshop taking place at Rugeley Community Centre, Burntmill Lane, Rugeley, WS15 2HX, with the first session being held on Friday 17 January from 9.30am-11.30am and the second on Friday 31 January from 9.30am-11.30am. It will focus on understanding autism for the child, the difficulties that may affect them and advice and support around how to manage these issues. A parent or carer must attend with the child and to book a place please refer to the service contact details below.

The National Autistic Society has produced a series of helpful tips for parents and carers over the festive period – click here to visit the charity’s website. You will need to complete an online contact form in order to download the tips.

Christmas opening hours
Please see below the service’s opening hours over the Christmas period. Staff will be focusing on completing arranged appointments during this time:

- Monday 23 December – 9am-5pm
- Christmas Eve – closed
- Christmas Day – closed
- Boxing Day – closed
- Friday 27 December – 9am-5pm
- Monday 30 December – 9am-5pm
- New Year’s Eve – closed
- New Year’s Day – closed
- Thursday 2 January onwards – normal working hours resume.

The service can be contacted during these times by calling 0300 303 0691, and is also available via email at cypautismservice@mpft.nhs.uk.
Stakeholder update

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.

Urgent help

Office hours

- Contact the Children and Young People’s Autism service on 0300 303 0691 (NB: please see the service’s Christmas opening hours above)
- First Response on 0800 1313 126 – its Christmas opening hours are as follows (NB: the First Response Emergency Duty Team will continue to provide out-of-hours support):
  - Monday 23 December – 8.30am-5pm
  - Christmas Eve – 8.30am-4pm
  - Christmas Day & Boxing Day – closed
  - Friday 27 December – 8.30am-5pm
  - Monday 30 December – 8.30am-5pm
  - New Year’s Eve – 8.30am-4pm
  - New Year’s Day – closed
  - Thursday 2 January onwards – normal working hours resume.

Out-of-hours (evenings, weekends or bank holidays)

- 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.
The Trust's Customer Services Team is also available for advice and support and provides information on NHS and social care services (NB: The service will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, with normal opening hours of 9am-5pm on other weekdays).

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

This is the final update of the year; with our next update scheduled for Friday 10 January. Can we wish you a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year – thank you.