Children and Young People’s Autism Service

Alongside the ongoing work taking place to provide autism assessments and interventions for families in the south of the county, the team has also been focussed on engaging with families and listening to their thoughts and concerns.

Following the team’s attendance at the BLAST parent support group in Burntwood, we are in the process of responding to the questions raised by the families who attended.

Among the suggestions put forward at the session were a number of workshops which we are exploring. We’ll be in a position to update you with more information on this in the New Year.

In the meantime, we have more details on the upcoming ‘Me, Myself and Autism’ workshop, aimed at children and young people aged 9-14. This will be 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.

A number of assessments have now been closed and the families will be receiving their outcome report shortly. The team continue to hold assessments and interventions and our daily clinical duty worker remains on hand to offer urgent telephone advice.

The team is also doing its best to respond to queries from families getting in touch to ask about the progress of their appointment or referral. Demand for the service continues to be high and we thank families for their patience.

We are in the process of sending a letter to families whose referral for intervention was received as part of the initial transfer. Parents are being asked to confirm they still wish for their child to receive support – this feedback will help the team to review the current needs of families.

For information, next week’s update will be the final one of the year, with the first update of 2020 arriving on Friday 10 January following the Christmas and New Year period. See you next week.
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.

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