Children and Young People’s Autism Service

Clinicians and assistant psychologists have been going into schools to carry out observations and cognitive assessments for pupils referred to the service.

After commencing observations and cognitive assessments for schools in the Tamworth and Wombourne areas, the team will be in Cannock next week working with school staff to ensure this necessary part of the assessment process takes place.

As mentioned last week, appointments for interventions and assessments are being prioritised based on the length of time the family have been waiting and the level of clinical need, with those who have been waiting longest and those whose clinical need is greatest being the biggest priority.

Over the past two weeks, 18 assessments have been carried out, while 44 individual intervention appointments have been held over the past four weeks – these appointments are with families whose active cases had been transferred to us from the previous provider.

We continue to be contacted by parents who haven’t received an introductory letter from the service and have been querying the situation with their child. As previously mentioned, these letters went out in October to everyone whose active records were transferred over to us. As such, we have ensured the details of these patients whose situations were not known to us have been added to our system.

Finally, we have made a few changes to our appointments system in order to more effectively enable our clinical and administrative staff to provide a smoother and more efficient process.

We also continue to liaise with other health and care professionals within the Trust with the aim of providing as smooth and streamlined service as possible for families.

‘Introduction to autism’ workshops

- Thursday 28 November – 9.30am-12.30pm at Rugeley Community Centre in Burnthill Lane, Rugeley, WS15 2HX
- Wednesday 4 December – 9.30am-12.30pm at St Peter's Church in Hawksworth, Tamworth, B77 2HH

These sessions will provide more information on the difficulties that are commonly seen in children with autism, alongside recommendations on how the team can support this.
Stakeholder update

15 November 2019

‘Understanding sensory processing in children with autism – parent/carer’ workshop

- Thursday 5 December - 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.

NB: Each of 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 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.

Drop-in clinic

- Thursday 28 November – 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.

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