Welcome to the weekly update about the Children and Young People’s Autism Service in south Staffordshire.

**Assessments and interventions**
Letters were sent recently to families awaiting an intervention to establish whether this was still required. The letter was issued following a number of ‘did not attends’ for intervention appointments, and in response to some parents who felt they no longer required an appointment for their child. Please be aware that this letter was sent to everyone – including those families who have been in touch with us as our system that generated the letter was not able to pull out those families who had already been in touch with us. We apologise for any distress this may have caused.

**NB:** There will be some parents who have received this letter who do not require access to the service at this time. We completely appreciate that situations change, however and wish to reassure these parents they are very welcome to get in touch with the service in the future should they wish. By understanding those families who currently require access, the service is able to prioritise accordingly. If you are uncertain then please contact the service and chat to a member of the team.

Families whose children are now receiving a full or working diagnosis report will be offered the option of a follow-up appointment to discuss the report and any questions or concerns families may have. Families whose child has a diagnosis continue to have ‘open access’ to the autism service and the process remains the same as with the previous provider, wherein a self-referral is required for a new episode of care or support for intervention. For those in receipt of a diagnosis, or working diagnosis a self-referral form is available on request by emailing the team at cypautismservice@mpft.nhs.uk. Completion of this form enables families to provide information in their own words around the presenting needs of their child and informs the team of the most appropriate support required.

**Recruitment**
We are really pleased that Mandeep Kaur (pictured), Counselling Psychologist, has returned from her maternity leave. Mandeep will work within the team to offer appointments for assessments.

**Recruitment panels**
Parents interested in becoming part of interview panels for future posts are encouraged to email Louise Crompton at involvement@mpft.nhs.uk or call 01785 221377.
Children and Young People’s Autism Service (South Staffordshire) update
date: 28 February 2020

Workshops
We held our second Sleep workshop in Tamworth yesterday (27 February). Thank you to all those parents who attended – we very much hope they found the session helpful.

As a reminder, our next Introduction to Autism workshop will be taking place on Tuesday 3 March from 9.30am-12.30pm at East Staffs Children’s Centre, 248-257 Waterloo Street, Burton-on-Trent, DE14 2NJ.

This course offers an excellent opportunity for parents and families to understand their child’s diagnosis – whether for families with a recent diagnosis or those looking to refresh their knowledge and meet with other families. We take pride in this introduction group as it offers a unique opportunity for parents to discuss their experiences, share strategies and chat about different stages of their child’s development.

Places are still available for our Understanding sensory processing in children with autism – parent/carer workshop on Thursday 19 March from 10am-12.30pm, which 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. It takes place at East Staffs Children Centre, Waterloo Street, Burton-on-Trent, DE14 2NJ.

Further ‘Me, Myself and Autism’ workshops will take place on Tuesday 21 April from 1pm-3pm and Tuesday 28 April from 1pm-3pm in Glascote Library, 80 Caledonian, Glascote, Tamworth, B77 2ED. This will be a two-session workshop focusing on understanding autism for the child, the difficulties that may affect them and advice and support around how to manage these issues. NB: A parent or carer must attend with the child. There will be an opportunity for parents to speak to the team following the workshop to answer any questions around upcoming workshops and specific advice for their child.

To book a place on any of our workshops please contact the team by email at cypautismservice@mpft.nhs.uk or telephone 0300 303 0691.

Workshop survey
We are still welcoming views on what workshops you would like the service to provide, and the most appropriate times for these workshops to take place. Please click on this link to complete a survey.

Referrals
As a reminder, any professional, including education and health can make an autism referral for a child or young person where they have concerns around the child’s social communication, interaction and rigidity of thought and behaviour. Specific examples of how these issues manifest are required in order to process the referral.
You are welcome to supply additional verifying information from school where a professional other than from a school is making the referral, which the referrer can attach to their referral. Any professional is welcome to contact the service should they wish to discuss a potential referral by calling 0300 303 0691 (9am-5pm, Monday to Friday) or emailing cypautismservice@mpft.nhs.uk.

The assessment referral form can be found on the service web page at www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people-autism-service.

Contacting the service
- Telephone: 0300 303 0691 (9am-5pm, Monday to Friday; excluding Bank Holidays)
- Email: 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
- Voice for Change session feedback.

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