Children and Young People’s Autism Service (south Staffordshire)

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

Engagement
We were pleased to attend the South Staffordshire Autism Partnership Group last Friday, which is chaired by the Clinical Commissioning Groups. We responded to questions on a range of areas and welcomed the opportunity to have this face-to-face discussion.

The final set of feedback to questions and comments raised by parents at the Voice for Change session we attended can be viewed on our service web page at www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people-autism-service.

Recruitment
We were pleased to welcome back Rebecca Blundred (pictured) from maternity leave. Rebecca will be supporting the admin team to respond to enquiries.

We’d like to use this opportunity to put a further request to parents who may be interested in becoming part of interview panels for future recruitment posts within the service. Having a parent’s perspective and input on recruitment panels will serve to strengthen the team going forwards and, should you be interested then please contact Louise Crompton by email at involvement@mpft.nhs.uk or call 01785 221377.

Referrals
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.
Assessments and interventions
Completed assessment outcome reports are being forwarded to families and professionals. 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.

Workshops
Our survey is seeking 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 should you wish to complete the survey; thank you.

The first of our Sleep workshops took place this morning in Rugeley, with another session being held on Thursday 27 February from 9.30am-12.30pm at Glascote Library, 80 Caledonian, Glascote, Tamworth, B77 2ED. It was a very productive workshop, which we hope those who attended found useful in supporting their child.

This workshop is for parents only and provides advice around sleep hygiene, sleep management and strategies. It is led by a Registered Learning Disability Nurse, who is a qualified sleep counsellor for children with additional needs, has completed training with the Children’s Sleep Charity in Scotland and also completed an MSc in Behavioural Sleep Medicine, which included specialist populations and children.

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

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.
Stakeholder update

14 February 2020

**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.

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