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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19)**
We intend for the service to continue during this period and is accessible via the single point of contact on 0300 303 0691 (9am-5pm, Monday to Friday) and via email at cypautismservice@mpft.nhs.uk. We will be closely monitoring national guidance and, should there be any changes we will of course notify you.

The duty worker will also remain available to speak to families at the moment while urgent support will continue to be available via the numbers listed below under ‘Contacting the service’.

Assessments and interventions will be provided either by telephone or online until further notice and we will continue to contact families to notify them of appointments.

Workshops have been suspended until further notice, although we continue to welcome 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.

We would also wish to reiterate national guidance from the NHS and Public Health England regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19), which you can find at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

**Resources**
The team are developing a range of emotional health resources and videos that can support families, children and young people whilst direct contact is not possible.

The first of these is available to view on the service’s web page under ‘Resources’ at www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people-autism-service. It has been developed by the team itself and focusses on helping children to understand their anxiety. We hope you find this useful.

We are also contacting local parent groups to discuss what resources can be provided to support children and young people who would ordinarily be accessing CAMHS and whose parents are having to support them at home.

**Assessments and interventions**
Please see above information on the provision of assessments and interventions during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
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.

**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.

**Recruitment**

Welcome to Amanda Boyd (*pictured*), who has joined the team this week and will be supporting on a temporary basis to cover a sabbatical. Amanda has a great deal of experience of NHS administrative processes.

Any parents who are interested in becoming part of interview panels for future posts are asked to email Louise Crompton at involvement@mpft.nhs.uk or call 01785 221377.

**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

Resources

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