

June 2020

Dear Head teachers

I hope that you are keeping well in these unprecedented times. I am writing to you with an update of the children's services currently provided by Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) and our initial next steps towards restoration and recovery.

Further to the COVID-19 pandemic, we received guidance from NHS England in March 2020 (The COVID-19 Prioritisation of Community Health Services) and reviewed our provision of children's community services provided in Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent. As a result of this guidance and the need to support frontline NHS services since March 2020 there have been changes to service delivery, with prioritisation of essential and urgent care.

All of our services have continued to provide care, assessments and interventions for those children and young people who have been prioritised as having the greatest risk (i.e. safeguarding, children in need, looked after and extremely vulnerable children).

We are planning the restoration and recovery of services as soon as possible and in line with national guidance, which will include digital solutions as well as face to face contacts. Health staff will ensure when any face to face contact occurs that it is practiced safely in line with all infection control measures, including the use and provision of PPE in accordance with MPFT Trust policy.

We thought it would be helpful to provide you with a summary of what is currently available, key services we are reinstating and how you can access our services:

Universal Services (Health Visiting and School Nursing for Staffordshire and Stoke-on Trent) and the School Aged Immunisation Service

Our School Nursing services remain available for all schools, children, young people and families and can be contacted through our Hubs. The contact details are as follows:

- Stoke-on-Trent – 0300 124 0362
- Staffordshire (Stafford, Stone, Seisdon, Newcastle and Staffordshire moorlands) 0300 303 3923
- Staffordshire (Burton, Cannock, Lichfield, Tamworth) 0300 303 3924

- All school nursing and health visiting hubs are available between the hours of 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays)

We have continued to engage with young people and parents in a variety of ways through telephone, face to face, video consultation and ChatHealth and this will continue.

ChatHealth text numbers: a professional will respond between the hours of 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays):

- Parents - 07520 615722
- Young people in Stoke on Trent - 07520 615723
- Young people in Staffordshire - 07520 615721

Our School Aged Immunisation Service recommenced on the 8th June 2020. We are providing appointed clinics and drive through immunisations which we are planning to offer at various venues. We are working with as many schools as possible to enable schools to also be offered as venues (these will still be offered appointment only to ensure safety of those attending). We are contacting families directly to offer appointments.

Please contact us via the Hubs for further information, any concerns or questions you may have about these services:

- School Aged Immunisation Service 0300 124 0366 - 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays) messages can be left and a member of staff will return your call.

Children's Therapy, Paediatric, Special School Nursing and Children's Nursing Services (Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent – n.b. Community Paediatrics services for South Staffordshire only)

All of these services have continued to undertake assessments and interventions for children and families who are deemed high priority, both face to face but also via telephone and video consultation, but we have had to step down some routine and non-urgent appointments, for example in Speech Therapy during this period.

Throughout the pandemic we have engaged with colleagues in primary care, acute hospitals, local authorities and across the Children's Care Group to ensure good communication has been maintained to respond to the changing need of our communities.

Special School Nursing will continue to support in line with current service specification in special schools and contribute to risk assessments of children attending school (where appropriate health input is required).

For referrals into the County Special School Nursing service continue to use the email: specialschools.staffs@nhs.net or speak to one of the team.

We are working closely with partners to support the restoration of these services. If you have any queries regarding these services please contact:

C&F Management Admin Team via the email:
c&fManagementAdminTeam@mpft.nhs.uk

Mental Health Services (South Staffordshire Only) CAMHS, Mental Health Support Team in Schools, CYP Autism

All children's mental health services are continuing to be accessible to support children & young people who need their service.

To support the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people, we have continued to provide specialists **CAMHS** services through remote consultation and essential face to face appointments. We continue to work in partnership with Action for Children, who are the new local provider of Emotional Health and Wellbeing services to ensure children get access to the right service to meet their needs (<https://www.staffordshire-ewb.actionforchildren.org.uk/>). For further information on how to access our CAMHS services please see our website (<https://camhs.mpft.nhs.uk/staffordshire>).

For East Staffordshire (Burton and Uttoxeter) the **Mental Health Support Team in Schools** continues to be accessible through the School Mental Health leads in schools.

The **CYP Autism** team for South Staffordshire has remained operational, but providing the majority of support via telephone and one consultation. The service can be accessed by:

- Calling **0300 303 0691** between the hours of 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays)
- Emailing cypautismservice@mpft.nhs.uk

And we welcome referrals from teachers and further information on how to do this can be found here:

<https://www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/children-and-young-people-autism-service>).

In addition, in response to the COVID crisis MPFT has established an all-age crisis access support line;

- Available 24 hours, 7 days a week, on **0300 555 5001**.

Next Steps

We are now planning the restoration and recovery of services in line with national guidance, ensuring we continue to offer digital and telephone contacts where it has proven successful. We will be working in partnership with you and families to support children and young people as they return to school, as well as commissioners and stakeholders to ensure that we do this efficiently and safely.

In order to maintain the social distancing advised in the national guidance may we please ask that rooms provided for health staff visiting children are larger than 2 metres in size. We very much appreciate your support in this matter and are happy to discuss this further with you if this poses a challenge.

Thank you for your ongoing support through these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

**Claire Bailey****Managing Director – Children and Families Care Group****Midlands Partnership Foundation NHS Trust**