Barnet Speech & Language Therapy

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12/04/2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

 **Re: Barnet Children’s Integrated Therapy (CIT) update**

Barnet Children’s Integrated Therapies [CIT] successfully transferred from NELFT (North East London Foundation Trust) to Whittington Health NHS Trust on 1st February 2022. The new leadership team is currently forming. I have been appointed as Head of Barnet Children’s Integrated Therapy in Whittington Health and Team Leads OT, Physio and SLTs are being recruited to. The service is supported by a dedicated team of Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists, Integrated Therapy Assistants, Children’s Integrated Clinical Liaison Officers (CICLO) and an Admin Team.

The CIT service is now delivering a “hybrid model”, working flexibly with parents and carers and ensuring the best outcomes are obtained to effectively meet the needs of Children, Young People and their families in Barnet. This model of working has been developed and improved with input from the Barnet Parent Carer Forum. This has assisted the service immensely to listen, review and re-design the service. A set of key actions will be reviewed at the end of the Summer Term and we will share these with you.

All aspects of our service work closely with Children and Young People and their families in Barnet. The following gives a summary of the CIT offer in Summer 2022:

**Physiotherapy**

Barnet physiotherapists are continuing to support the gross motor development of children and young people across Barnet who need physiotherapy.

A recent project has been looking at introducing a motor skills programme for children in a special primary school. Currently a follow-up pilot project is underway and the mainstream school physiotherapists are looking forward to extending this programme into mainstream schools across Barnet.

**Occupational Therapy**

All parents, carers and schools have been invited to participate in Barnet CIT Universal Training for `Sensory Based Functional Needs’ and `Fine Motor Skills’.

Children with urgent need for Support from an Occupational therapist have been prioritised for direct intervention, including post-surgery and complex physical needs with requirement for highly specialist seating to support postural and dysphagia (feeding) needs.

**Speech and Language Therapy**

A comprehensive menu of Universal Training available via the Local offer with a range of training for parents and schools suitable to meet a wide range of speech, language and social communication needs.

Direct intervention to review children’s needs update advice and support and train schools to implement recommendations and strategies across the school day in a variety of settings.

To provide equitable support for children and young people in Barnet, we have reviewed the optimal model to ensure cover across children in schools. Service provision will be rotated across schools in the Summer Term.

**Staffing and Recruitment**

I am aware that there have been delays in children and young people accessing therapies. We have undertaken a large recruitment drive in Barnet CIT to enhance the service and look forward to welcoming colleagues to our team.

**Next Steps and keeping in touch**

The Barnet CIT Service has recently reintroduced drop-in sessions with a Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language Therapist. These are open to all families and school staff to meet with a therapist for clinical advice and are bookable by phoning the Barnet Single Point of Access (SPA) on Tel: 020 3316 8900to book onto the next available appointment.

Barnet CIT are pleased to offer a variety of Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy workshops for parents and schools. Please click on the link below for more details about the range of workshops available and the dates for workshops in the Summer Term. To book into a Universal workshop please follow this link to the Barnet Local Offer <https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/pages/parent-zone/whats-on-courses-and-support-groups-for-parents>

Key contacts:

Children’s Integrated Clinical Liaison Officers (CICLO)

Whh-tr.barnetcit.ciclo@nhs.net

Barnet Children’s Integrated therapy SPA:

Phone: 020 3316 8900

Email: whh-tr.barnetcit@nhs.net

We will be providing further Termly Therapy service updates

Yours Sincerely



Marion Neuman

Head of Barnet children’s Integrated Therapy