Barnet Speech & Language Therapy

Edgware Community Hospital

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Edgware

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May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers of Children and Young People attending Special Schools,

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

Barnet Children’s Integrated Therapies [CIT] successfully transferred from NELFT (North East London Foundation Trust) to Whittington Health NHS Trust on 1st February 2022. Marion Neuman is now in place as Head of Integrated Therapies in Barnet, and we are building a strong leadership team of Clinical Team Leads and Pathway Leads, a dedicated team of Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists, Integrated Therapy Assistants and a Clinical Administration Team.

The CIT service remains dedicated and committed to provide support and provision for children and young people needing therapy in Barnet. We are now delivering a mixed model of virtual and face-to-face therapy provision, ensuring the best outcomes are obtained to effectively meet the needs of children, young people and their families in Barnet. This model has been developed and improved with collaborative input from the Barnet Parent Carer Forum. This has enabled us to listen, review and design the service, and develop an action plan for the service which will be reviewed at the end of the Summer Term and shared with parents through the Barnet Local Offer.

**Staffing and Recruitment**

We appreciate there have been delays for some children and young people accessing therapies. The caseload has been reviewed and the Children and Young People’s (CYP’s) clinical priorities have been discussed with schools. We have undertaken a large recruitment drive in Barnet CIT to enhance the service and look forward to welcoming new colleagues to our team. I will update with further information later in the term, with details about CIT service staffing in each of the special schools.

**Next steps and keeping in touch**

To ensure you can access the service here are a few ways to do so:

1. Contact therapists in the school if you have any queries about your child’s therapy.
2. Virtual drop-in session with a Physiotherapist, OT or SLT are open to all families for clinical advice. Contact Barnet Single Point of Access on 020 3316 8900 or[whh-tr.barnetcit@nhs.net](mailto:whh-tr.barnetcit@nhs.net) to book onto the next available appointment.
3. Universal training sessions can be booked using the training menu on the local offer: <https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/pages/parent-zone/whats-on-courses-and-support-groups-for-parents>
4. If you have any questions or concerns about therapy provision in special schools you can contact me on [claireturner3@nhs.net](mailto:claireturner3@nhs.net)

Yours Sincerely

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Claire Turner

Clinical Team Lead – Complex specific and dysphagia pathway