

## **Joint Communication to Parents from North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT), Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group (Barnet CCG) and the London Borough of Barnet (LBB)**

NELFT, Barnet CCG and the London Borough of Barnet are working hard to ensure that the children who are most at risk and vulnerable continue to receive support from the NELFT's Barnet Children's Integrated Therapy Team. We want to reassure you that despite the current significant pressure on the health service, the service will continue to provide critical services to children who have the highest need and are most at risk.

These high need interventions will be provided for children with and without EHCP requiring urgent care and include:

- Swallowing and feeding difficulties requiring urgent assessment or review,
- Post-surgical interventions within the last 6 weeks where physiotherapy or Occupational therapy is required
- Children who had Botox in the last 6 weeks
- Hospital discharge requiring Equipment for health needs ( Physio / OT )
- Acute Neurological patients- at risk of hospital admission

NHS England and NHS Improvement have issued guidance on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 (Covid-19- Prioritisation within Community Health Services) to all community providers in England, of services that will need to step down urgently in order to release capacity in the NHS. Therefore only urgent care needs for children will be prioritised and all medium and lower priority work and interventions will be stopped.

London Borough of Barnet is working with the NELFT Barnet Children's Integrated Therapy Team making all reasonable adjustments to make sure new EHCP assessments are carried out within required timelines. To make this possible the therapists will carry out these assessments virtually as Video /telephone consultations and aim to provide a report within the legal timeframe. The team will endeavour to update the report (in more detail, if needed) following the first face to face consultation with children, young people and families, or at the time of child/young person's Annual Review.

Barnet Children's Integrated Therapy Team will continue to triage new referrals. The Service has updated its digital service and will offer virtual and telephone consultations as a first point of contact for children and young people, schools and families. Where there is an identified clinical need as described above, for direct intervention by a Physiotherapist / Occupational Therapist / Speech and Language Dysphagia Therapist for high risks cases, then a face to face intervention will be provided.

We would like to thank you for your support and understanding at this challenging time, which is significantly impacting our National Health Service. If you need advice on the services offered by the Children's integrated therapies you can still contact the Barnet CIT service on Tel: 03003001821.

All patients, parents and carers can access advice and guidance on Covid-19 and what to do on the NHS111 online, <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> Public Health England and NHS England websites for up to date information on Covid-19.