

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS/CARERS WHO ARE
AWAITING AUTISM ASSESSMENTS

Until recently, the Autism Research and Diagnostic Centre (ADRC) carried out diagnostic assessments for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for children and young people under the age of 19 years on the Isle of Wight. Unfortunately, the ADRC has recently ceased its assessment of childhood Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and will no longer be providing services beyond 31 December 2017.

We are very sorry that this unforeseen situation has arisen and we are writing to reassure you that we at the Isle of Wight NHS Trust are working with the Clinical Commissioning Group to review urgently the current situation and implement a plan to ensure that those waiting for an assessment are seen at the earliest opportunity possible.

We are expecting the transfer of files from the ADRC to the Isle of Wight Trust at the end of this week and the Clinicians will be reviewing each of these and contacting families directly in relation to these referrals. Once we have reviewed the files on an individual basis, we shall inform everyone directly by letter regarding the next steps in their assessment process.

We at the Trust understand the stress and concerns of those parents and children who have been referred for an ASD assessment and have undertaken to process these as a priority. The backlog of files is considerable and we shall work through them as quickly as possible. We would ask you to be patient and to bear with us as we work through the lists we are to receive from ADRC.

If you have been referred to ADRC and not had an assessment, please do not ask your GP to make a new referral as we shall process these as soon as we have the files back on the island as detailed above

At present, we are working closely with the island's parent representatives, current service providers in the private, public and voluntary sectors to plan a comprehensive diagnostic and support service for children and their parents and carers going forward.

We want to get this right. We do understand that any delay can be difficult and we do again wish to assure you that we continue to work hard to establish a way in which we will reduce the backlog of referrals and the time that you may have waited to obtain an assessment. We expect to have completed this initial step in the next four weeks.

As yet, there have been no formal decisions taken as to the long term shape of a Childhood ASD service on the Island but it will be in line with the Guidelines published by NICE which you can access online at this link :-

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg170>

In the meantime, if you require advice and support at this time, please contact Barnardo's Family Centres on the following numbers:

West and Central Family Centre: 01983 529208

South Wight Family Centre: 01983 408718

North East Family Centre: 01983 617617

We thank you in advance for your understanding