

Progress being made on ASD waiting times

Cathy Riley, Managing Director, Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT), was invited to give an update on the waiting times for autism assessments.



MPFT is the lead partner in BeeU and works with The Children's Society, Healios and Kooth.

Cathy told us "For those children and young people who have been referred to specialist mental health services because of suspected autism spectrum disorder, the wait has been long and unacceptable. For this I would like to apologise."

Following investment from the clinical commissioning group at the end of last year, BeeU has recruited an ASD assessment team who will assess those children and young people who have been waiting over 12 months.

The team started to undertake ASD assessments in September of last year and started with 294 children and young people.

By January, this had reduced to 220 young people on the waiting list. 117 of those have been waiting over a year and 103 have been waiting under a year.

BeeU is working in partnership with another organisation who is going to assess the 40 children and young people who have waited the longest and will contact the families direct.

By the end of April 2021, BeeU plans to have started the assessments of all 220 children and young people still waiting.

BeeU continues to accept new referrals and their aim is to get within the NICE guidance of good practice that all children and young people wait for a maximum of 12 weeks from referral to the start their assessment. And to maintain, or reduce, that over time.

BeeU is developing their website and would really find your support, knowledge and feedback to make this happen. If you are interested in supporting this please visit <https://camhs.mpft.nhs.uk/beeU> and click on the 'getting involved and giving feedback' section or email any comments to communications@mpft.nhs.uk.