

## **COVID 19 (CORONAVIRUS) - UPDATE FROM THE PAEDIATRIC PHYSIOTHERAPY, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND SPECIALIST PLAY TEAM**

We would like to thank you for your patience and support during the Covid-19 pandemic. We continue to work together with our Health, Education and Social Care colleagues recovering services whilst ensuring that patients and staff remain safe and secure.

### **January 2021**

- At this point in time our services have not been stepped down, we are not being asked to redeploy to other services and our therapists are continuing to provide support to our children, young people and families across the county
- We are continuing to offer a virtual first approach, providing telephone consultations and video appointments where possible
- Where there is a clinical need to see somebody face to face we are able to complete this with the appropriate PPE, following our Trust's guidance to mitigate risk (this may take place in clinic, school or at a patients home and is determined on an individual basis)
- We are continuing to provide face to face appointments for orthotics when required
- We are continuing to offer support schools to ensure children are able to access their equipment, continue their therapy programmes where possible and ensure staff are upskilled and confident to support children's needs
- We are continuing to prioritise assessment requests from the SEND team for New Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment. These are triaged for suitability following EHCP panel.
- Our Specialist Play Service is providing telephone and virtual sessions for pre-school children and their families and are continuing to offer visits when deemed necessary.
- We continue to accept referrals following our usual process, please be aware we have developed a longer waiting list during this period across all our services. We are working through this steadily so please bear with us as we are recovering services gradually to manage risks and keep patients and staff safe.
- We are currently not able to offer hydrotherapy, serial casting or any groups at this time
- Our colleagues in equipment and wheelchair services have updated us around expected delays with equipment orders and wheelchair appointments

We have developed a number of useful resources and videos on our website, YouTube channel and Facebook page which you may find useful to review e.g. <https://youtu.be/Q6FO1otu8fo>

We have an Occupational Therapy advice line on Wednesdays 10am-3pm aimed at families, teachers and professionals - **07562 436633**

Please be assured we are doing all we can to prioritise patient and staff safety. Thank you for your understanding and support.

*Alice Turnbull*

**Service Lead for Paediatric Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy & Specialist Play**