

23 January 2018

### **Important update for families relating to the Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism**

In December 2017 we explained that the NHS Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group, (CCG), and the Isle of Wight NHS Trust were working together to implement a plan to ensure that those waiting for an Autism assessment are seen at the earliest opportunity possible.

We advised that following the closure of the Autism Research and Diagnostic Centre (ADRC), patient records had been received by the Isle of Wight Trust and suitably trained staff were in the process of reviewing each of these referrals with the intention of writing to each family with an update and to explain the 'next steps'.

We are commissioning a new service from the Isle of Wight NHS Trust that complies with the recommendations put forward by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, (NICE). Once this service has been commissioned and staff are recruited, the service will be in contact with you directly. We are currently working to ensure that the new service starts by the end of February 2018.

We apologise that it is taking time to set up this new service and that you may have not been kept informed about progress and we recognise that this may cause distress or uncertainty. However, it is important that the new service that we set up is as safe and effective as possible. The additional steps we are taking at this stage will help us ensure that this is the case.

We would like to assure you that the offer of support from Barnardo's, remains in place if it would be helpful to have someone to talk to or receive support or advice from in the short term.

Their Family Centres can be contacted as follows:-

- West and Central Family Centre: 01983 529208
- South Wight Family Centre: 01983 408718
- North East Family Centre: 01983 617617

Again, please accept our sincere apologies for the delay and our sincerest thanks for your patience and understanding. We will endeavour to keep everyone updated on our progress through the CCG, Trust and Council websites as well as through schools and our special educational needs colleagues.

If you do need to contact us then please send an email to :-

[iowmhchildrenscommissioning@nhs.net](mailto:iowmhchildrenscommissioning@nhs.net)