

Community Children and Young People's Health Services during the Covid-19 Pandemic

January 2021

The health and safety of our children, families and staff is our top priority and as the impact of COVID-19 continues to be felt across the UK into our New Year we are working hard to prevent the spread of Covid-19. We thought it would be helpful to share a brief overview of our current community children and young people's health services and the different ways we are working to keep everyone safe and continue to promote the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

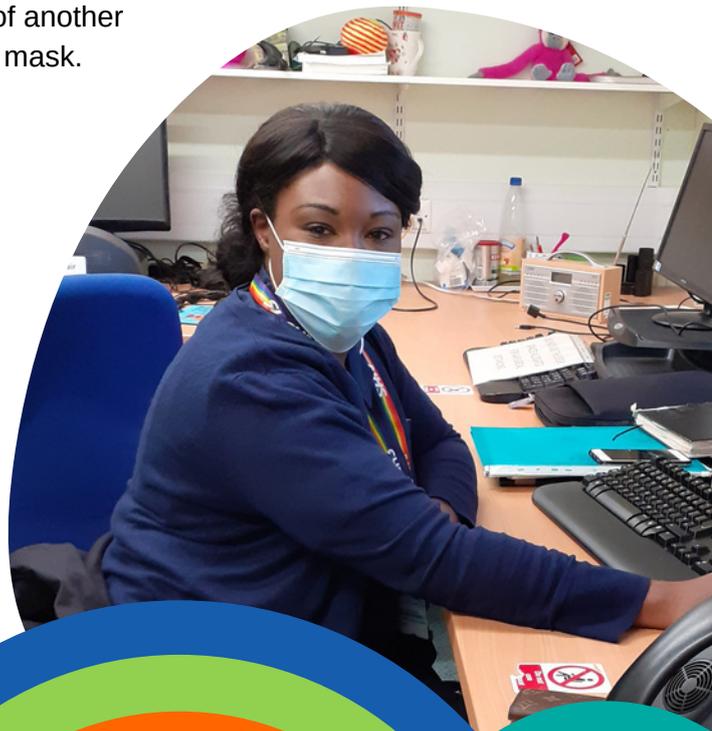
At present we are continuing to offer a wide range of services but some of these may be reduced due to additional safety measures. We continue to provide face to face appointments where safe to do so through home and clinic visits alongside telephone or video call (Attend Anywhere virtual outpatient appointment) appointments. Professionals, partners, children, young people and families are working together to determine the most appropriate method of appointment.

How are we going to help keep everyone safe?

Following NHS guidance all staff working within 2 metres of another adult, child or young person needs to wear a surgical face mask.

This means that when we visit schools or preschools we will be wearing face masks. This could also include gloves and aprons if we are going to be in close contact ensuring we change this personal protective equipment (PPE) when we see different children and young people.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all families, education staff and other professionals for their ongoing support and flexibility during these unprecedented times, and we look forward to continuing working with you to support children and their families across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.



Our Services

Immunisation and Vaccination Service

The Immunisation and Vaccination Team have almost finished their seasonal flu programme to children from Reception to Year 7 (18 years in Special Schools).

We are busy modifying our school based immunisation programmes to deliver the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) programme to boys and girls in Year 8, the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis (School Leaver Booster) and the Adolescent Meningitis ACWY vaccines to Year 9 students due to limited access to young people in schools.

If you have any questions please contact the team on **01743 730028**
shropcom.immunisationteam@nhs.net

Community Children's Nursing Team and Paediatric Diabetes Nursing Team

The Community Children's Nursing Team and Paediatric Diabetes Nursing Team continue to provide nursing care and support to Children and Young People aged 0 to 18/19 years. If the Child or Young Person needs ongoing care in the school we will work with you to ensure there is an individualised health care plan in place and that staff have received appropriate training so that the child or young person can continue to safely attend the school setting.

If you wish to talk to the Community Children's Nursing Team please contact them on the CCN Team on **01743 450855**
shropcom.ccnadmin@nhs.net

If you wish to talk to the Paediatric Diabetes Nursing Team please contact them on **01743 450855** or **shropcom.pdsn@nhs.net**

Children's Community Audiology

The service continues to provide face to face appointments for children. Parents and carers will be asked screening questions before attending and clinics have reduced the number of appointments in each session to allow cleaning in between appointments.

We are working our way through the children on waiting list and are sending letters to parents/carers requesting them to contact us to book an appointment in due course.

If you have any questions please contact the Audiology Service on **01743 450831**



Children's Therapies (Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech and Language Therapy)

Where this is clinically appropriate assessment and intervention is being offered remotely by telephone, using our remote appointment platform Attend Anywhere or via MS teams for all therapies. Some assessments and interventions are more easily and more effectively delivered face to face. Appointments are being offered in all our clinical sites where this is safe to do. This includes paired and group interventions where we are carrying out very careful risk assessments.

School and early years settings visits are continuing where they are required. The service offer will depend on whether the child or young person is attending a setting, the risk assessment of that setting and the risk assessment made by the therapist or assistant. This means the offer for an individual child or young person will be kept under review.

Most training workshops for parents and setting staff are being offered via MS teams or Zoom. We are working hard to develop safe training options for parents or carers who do not have access to IT.

For all therapy services we are developing our social media presence to ensure everyone has access to relevant information and support. The Children's Physiotherapy Facebook page is the first to go live. You can find us at [Shropcom Children's Physiotherapy - Home | Facebook](#)

Please note that Physiotherapy and CDC services both require a medical referral.

If you have any questions please contact the Children's Therapies Teams on: **01743 4500800** (Shropshire) or **01952 567351** (Telford) or for OT you can also email [**Shropcom.OT4kids@nhs.net**](mailto:Shropcom.OT4kids@nhs.net)

Urgent Information about Children's Speech and Language Therapy

Referrals for children's speech and language therapy are again too high for the service to meet demand. If you have made a referral for SLT you may be offered support through the advice line or access to a relevant training workshop. We are urgently asking for everyone's help in referring children for SLT only where settings feel unable to support a child or young person to make progress in their speech, language or communication without our help, or if you are a Parent where you are worried and feel you need our help. More information to support settings will be available from February when the Children's SLT Facebook page launches.

For school colleagues, as of 1st September 2020, we have only been accepting electronic referrals from schools for Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy to the following email address:
shropcom.childtherapyreferrals@nhs.net

Please see the information leaflet on our website pages about setting up a secure email system where you can also find the OT and SLT referral forms.
www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk



Child Development Centres

The team are using information gathering by telephone and questionnaires, remote video conferencing and face-to-face sessions.

We are carrying out assessments in the CDC playrooms with one child and carer attending at a time; using observation mirrors to enable the multi-disciplinary element to be maintained. Some of the face-to-face sessions may be observed by the team via web cam.

Training packages have been converted to enable remote delivery. The Intensive Interaction training workshops are now going live, in addition to Visuals and Makaton training. In Telford where Early Bird and Early Bird plus for children have been commissioned for parents where children have been given a diagnosis or there is a strong likelihood of Autistic Spectrum Disorder are being offered remotely.

If you have any questions please contact the Child Development Centre on either **01743 730012** (Shropshire) or **01952 567300** (Telford)

Community Dental Teams

The Community Dental teams have worked hard during the Covid-19 Pandemic. We were involved in the local development of urgent dental care centres, and have supported local primary dental care with the ongoing treatment of shielded and clinically vulnerable groups, both remotely and face to face during the shutdown of primary care dentistry.

We have been safely restoring our other dental services; our practices in Market Drayton and Craven Arms are seeing their regular patients, based on clinical priority and are working through any backlog.

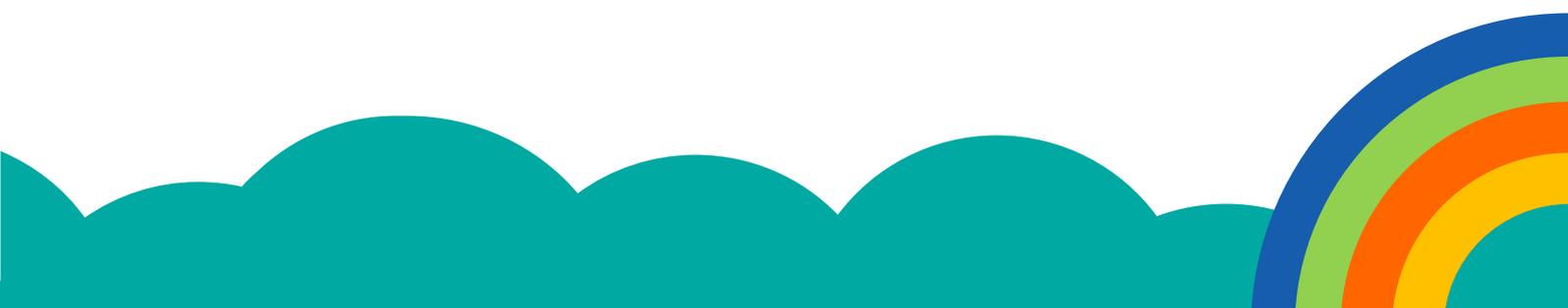
Our Special Care Dental service are accepting appropriate referrals and we are triaging and treating patients who are in the most need. We are keeping in touch with all our other Special Care patients, via telephone or video consultation. We are always available to speak to any patients or their care team. We are working hard with our partners at our local hospitals to (PRH, RSH, RJAH) to provide General Anaesthetic for dental treatment for some of our most vulnerable patients.

We are hoping for all our special care patients to have a remote consultation with one of our Dental Therapists or Oral Health Educators to help with any questions regarding oral hygiene and diet advice.

We remain open for Urgent Dental Care 7 days a week; we have appointments available every day for patients who have a dental problem, but do not have access to a Dentist locally.

As we move forward through we will continue to provide a community dental service that is safe and flexible.

If you have any questions please contact us on:
01743 341898 Shrewsbury or
01691 663684 Oswestry



Community Paediatric Service

The Community Paediatricians Team continues to provide face to face, telephone and Attend Anywhere (virtual outpatients) appointments depending upon the nature of the appointment and priority.

One of the team members has started in the role as Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Ambassador for the STP and will be advocating for children and young people's health and the workforce that are required to provide high quality health services for them at the strategic planning level. If you have any questions please contact the team on **01743 450800** (Shropshire) or **01952 567300** (Telford & Wrekin).

0-19 Service – Leading on the Healthy Child Programme

The 0 -19 service includes Health Visitors, School Nurses, Nursery Nurses, Support Workers and Family Nurse Practitioners working across Shropshire, Telford and Dudley.

Whilst we aim to deliver the full Healthy Child Programme we are prioritising face to face appointments for the new birth visit and the 6-8 week review. We are also progressing on increasing the number of one and two year reviews. The National Childhood Measurement Programme had been paused whilst children are not currently attending school. We await further guidance before we recommence.

Safeguarding and Child Protection underpins all work with babies, children and young people.

We continue to use a variety of client based platforms underpinned by a robust risk assessment to determine the appropriate type of contact such as face to face contact in the home or clinic, a telephone contact, use of texting Chat Health services or the use of a virtual contact.

We continue to provide support for parents with babies at our health clinics, virtual/face to face breast feeding support, support for children & young people in need of additional support, emotional health and well-being support from the transition into parenthood, the transition into starting school and the transition into adulthood as young people leave school. The school nurse provides help and information for the development of healthy relationships including sexual health advice to support the holistic health needs of young people. We also continue to provide support for our vulnerable babies, children and young people through our Family Nurse Partnership nursing team who deliver a licensed evidence based programme of early intervention from 0 -2 years.

Telford 0-19 Healthy Child Programme
0333 358 3328

Shropshire 0 – 25 Public Health Nursing Service
0333 358 3654

Dudley School Nurses – **01384 408992**



The Wheelchair and Posture Service

Our service aims to meet the mobility needs of people of all ages with restricted abilities within Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. This is achieved through skilled, clinical assessment resulting in the prescription of mobility equipment with associated seating and postural products; ensuring an equitable, appropriate service to all users.

Although operating a reduced service in line with national guidance we are continuing to see children, young people and adults on a face to face assessed priority basis whilst adhering to NHS guidance to keep everyone safe.

If you have any questions please contact the team on:
01743 444051 or email
Shropcom.swaps@nhs.net

The Paediatric Psychology Service

The Paediatric Psychology Service has continued to offer both face to face (where appropriate and required) and virtual appointments throughout the pandemic. We recognise the significant impact of Covid-19 and the ongoing restrictions on the emotional wellbeing of children, young people and their families and we continue to upload helpful resources on this topic, which can be found using the following link:

www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/coronavirus-resources-for-children-and-families

It is absolutely expected that we will all continue to have a mixture of feelings bubbling away and real ups and downs in our emotions, during this time of great uncertainty. This is likely even more so now that schools have closed again and routines may have significantly changed for lots of families as a result. We recently came across an excellent e-book written by Psychologist Dr Emma Hepburn, called "How to stay calm during a pandemic". It is well worth a read...

www.hachette.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/How-to-Stay-Calm-in-a-Global-Pandemic-Free-ebook.pdf

The Paediatric Psychology Service can be contacted on:
01743 730138 or **shropcom.ppsadmin@nhs.net**

