



Seaside View update June 2020

Just an update on the discussions I've been having with SSV re the letters that were originally sent out at the beginning of lockdown and to just give you some information on how things are currently being done.

Harriet Clompus Consultant Paediatrician at Seaside View apologise for any confusion around appointments saying "We sent out an initial letter cancelling appointments at the end of March and in April when the Covid19 restrictions were first announced. Once we had carried out prioritisation and planning, we were able to offer new remote appointment slots for these cancelled appointments".

She went on to explain how things stand at the moment.

- SSV are carrying out some ASC assessments parent interviews remotely either by phone or video, to try and reduce our backlog once restrictions are lifted. We are not assessing the child during these remote assessments, just interviewing the parents. We will complete the assessment process with a face to face observational assessment of the child once restrictions have lifted. These remote assessments are booked after a telephone call from administrative staff to check whether parents would like a remote assessment or would prefer to wait. An appointment letter, giving further information about the appointment, and a text reminder are then sent out in the usual way. We are NOT calling parents cold and requesting they have an immediate appointment.
- Not every child will be suitable for this type of assessment and a decision about remote assessment suitability is made on clinical grounds related to the complexity of the issues.

- We are continuing to work with the CCG on the neurodevelopmental pathway and have employed more staff and are carrying out training to ensure that we can expand our assessment capacity.

I also had a recent phone conversation with Harriet Clompus to update us even more and this is what was spoken about.

- There will be ADOS based face to face video assessments with secondary aged children as they can follow requirements
- SSV have been discussions with experts on best way forward to manage the assessments long term if distancing continues for longer, looking into if there's a way to reshape the diagnostic process to more virtual assessments.
- There's been approx. 95 assessment completed since lock down
- The young ones, mainly at Jeanne Saunders Centre who have lots of information and reports backing their needs are getting diagnosed straight away
- The way the assessments go forward are all worked out with parental views taken into consideration, as well as clinical decisions on based on each case.
- Autism diagnosis are being done by taking a full history and then being referred to the ASC panel to assess.
- If there's any issues with not being able to build up a clear picture virtually, diagnosis won't be refused, but assessments will continue when possible.
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Harriet has been extremely helpful and has listened to our feedback and acted upon any requests.

Please keep feeding back to mASCot any concerns or questions as you have, and I will keep communicating with Harriet to keep you all up to date.