**Quality Improvement Pilot – ASD pre-diagnostic support**

Waiting times for adult Autism Spectrum Disorder assessments is a strategic priority for BSW CCG. There were already significant concerns about the waiting times which covid-19 has only magnified. A recognised gap in provision is the lack of any pre-diagnostic support for those individuals on these long waiting lists. Considering the current long wait times and drawing on our key value of adopting a patient centred approach, we are piloting a role for a GP with a special interest in Learning Disability and Autism over the next 3 months using a quality improvement approach. Learning from the pilot will be used to inform the future transformed diagnostic pathway.

Identified patients who are currently on the waiting list within the Swindon and Wiltshire Locality will be sent a letter inviting them to an appointment with the GP (n.b. BaNES are not included in the scope of the initial project due to trialling another approach for pre-diagnostic support within the locality). Following consent, an appointment will be booked with the GP with a special interest in Learning Disability and Autism. The GP will work collaboratively with the patient via a virtual or telephone appointment and will conduct a holistic needs-based assessment. The GP will coproduce a crisis care plan, including identifying any potential triggers for a crisis, how to recognise signs and what to do if they or their carers feel they are seeing signs of a crisis. The patient may also be signposted to other services such as third sector support or may be referred to secondary mental health services if an acute risk is identified. We believe we will demonstrate that the adults who receive an appointment with the GP have felt supported and heard and that there was a robust plan in place should they feel they are heading towards a crisis.

If you have any queries in relation to the pilot, please contact Kristina Clay, Head of Quality Improvement at k.clay@nhs.net