

Andrea Matthews
Case Manager and Occupational Therapist
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I have an MSc in Occupational Therapy, a BSc in Psychology and 16 years' experience of working in healthcare, specialising in neuro-rehabilitation. This unusual combination of qualifications, skills and experience equips me to provide high quality, cost effective case management and therapy services to people with a range of conditions within their own home, the community and residential services.

Employment History

February 2014 - present

Director/Occupational Therapist

Creative NeuroRehab Ltd

- Providing assessment and rehabilitation to adults and children with acquired brain injury and other conditions within their homes, work places and the wider community. Including cognitive assessment and rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation, technology based solutions, aids and equipment, ramps and bathroom adaptations, and rehabilitation of activities of daily living (ADL's).
- Using a range of functional and standardized assessments including the Birmingham Cognitive Screen (BCoS), Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA), Behavioural Assessment of the Dysexecutive Syndrome (BADS), Beery-Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration (Beery VMI) and a range of mood measures.
- Providing occupational therapy to adults with brain injury, mental health problems, and challenging behaviour within a private hospital. Focusing on maximising independence in ADL's and community based skills, to facilitate discharge in to community settings.
- Working with a range of conditions including people with acquired brain injury, visual impairment, learning difficulties, mental illness, gender dysphoria, addiction issues, cerebral palsy, complex regional pain syndrome, and autism.
- Providing training and support to staff teams and families.
- Producing comprehensive reports, updates and session summaries.

August 2014 – present

Case Manager

AJ Case Management, Wolverhampton

- Providing case management to clients with acquired brain injury, spinal cord injury and complex needs.
- Coordinating and managing transitions from residential care to the community.
- Sourcing appropriate housing solutions and supporting with all aspects of the move.
- Recruiting, training and managing support teams.
- Liaising with legal teams, Expert Witnesses, and therapists.
- Supporting clients and families through the litigation process.

September 2014 – April 2015

Volunteer Occupational Therapist

Ridgeway School, Warwick

- Volunteering at a special education state school for children aged 2 to 11 years.
- Working alongside employed OT to support sensory integration and rebound therapy sessions.

- Completing classroom and play based observations.

January 2015 - April 2015

Specialist Paediatric Occupational Therapist

Childrens Therapy Solutions

- Assessment of children with acquired brain injury, learning and physical difficulties, and sensory processing difficulties.
- Using a range of functional and standardised assessments, including the Movement Assessment Battery for Children (Movement ABC) and Developmental Test of Visual Assessment (DTVP-2).
- Writing comprehensive reports as part of the legal process.

October 2011 – March 2014

Occupational Therapist

Headwise Ltd, Birmingham

- Providing assessment and rehabilitation to people with a range of neurological conditions within service users own homes and the community.
- Providing OT assessment and intervention within a residential neuro-rehabilitation service.
- Experience includes assessment and rehabilitation of cognitive and physical disabilities, assessment of activities of daily living, developing and teaching strategies to maximise independence, assessing for minor aids and adaptations, using technology within the rehabilitation process, vocational rehabilitation, liaising closely with service users, families and professionals, and providing detailed reports.
- Took part in a European Commission funded research project called CogWatch. The project aimed to produce a piece of technology for the rehabilitation of cognitive deficits following stroke within service users own homes. My role involved developing questionnaires, conducting focus groups with stroke survivors, carers and professionals, and carrying out qualitative and quantitative data analysis.

January 2010 – September 2011

Development Assistant/ Assistant Psychologist (part time)

Headwise Ltd, Birmingham

- Worked within a neuropsychology service, under the supervision of the Director, to research potential service development opportunities.
- Under the supervision of a qualified Neuropsychologist I provided cognitive, behavioural and psychological assessment and therapeutic intervention to service users with acquired brain injury within their own homes and residential services.
- Devised and monitored behavioural management plans for the management of challenging behavior.

January 2007 – January 2010

Assistant Manager

The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust, Birmingham

- Worked as part of a large interdisciplinary team to provide residential assessment and rehabilitation to people with an acquired brain injury.
- Worked with the clinical team to manage the rehabilitation program by ensuring that all service users' were provided with opportunities to achieve their goals and attain occupational balance in terms of self-care, productivity and leisure.
- Managed and supervised support workers and ancillary staff in line with the organisations policies and procedures.
- Worked in conjunction with the clinical team to complete pre-admission screening

and risk assessments to ascertain the suitability of potential service users for rehabilitation.

- Managed budgets under my areas of responsibility to ensure that the service remained financially viable.
- Ensured that National Minimum Care Standards and Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) standards were met in order to maintain and improve the quality of service provision.
- Participated in business planning, including service development and financial planning.

February 2006 - January 2007

Assistant Psychologist

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust

- Worked across three services as part of a large multidisciplinary team to support people with severe and enduring mental health needs to return to/remain within the community.
- Included a locked male unit, an older adults service, and a community reintegration service.
- Formulated and implemented psychological interventions under the supervision of a qualified Clinical Psychologist.

June 2005 – February 2006

CARF Compliance Officer

The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust, Normanton

- Supported and advised the organisations management team to understand and implement Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) standards in order for the Trust to achieve CARF accreditation.
- Devised audit tools that were implemented Trust wide.
- Implemented strategies to increase consistency between different services within the Trust.

June 2004 - June 2005

Assistant Psychologist

The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust, Leeds

- Conducted neuropsychological testing, using a range of standardised assessments, under the supervision of a qualified Clinical Neuropsychologist.
- Worked as part of a large interdisciplinary team to provide specialist brain injury assessment and rehabilitation within a residential setting.
- Collected behavioural data and devised behavioural management programmes.
- Wrote detailed reports outlining service users' cognitive abilities and social behaviour.

Education

Sept 2009 - September 2011

University of Derby

MSc Occupational Therapy

Sept 2001 – June 2004

University of Wales, Bangor

BSc (Hons) Psychology (2:1)

Training

- Sensory Integration Network Module 2/3 - Assessment & Practice (SIPT Certified) University of Ulster (2016)
- Baby Sense – Assessment and Treatment of Infants with sensory integration problems and disorders of regulation (2016)
- Rebound Therapy Certification (2015)
- Sensory Integration Network Module 1: Foundations and Neuroscience University of Ulster (2014)
- Approved Wheelchair Assessors Course Shropshire Wheelchair Service (2012)
- APPLE Practice Placement Educators Course University of Derby (2012)
- Cognitive Profiling After Brain Injury - Training in the Birmingham Cognitive Screen (BCOS) University of Birmingham (2012)
- Assessment and Outcome Measurement using Northwick Park Dependency Scales Northwick Park (2012)
- The Upper Limb with Abnormal Tone – Preparation for Splinting (2012)
- Splinting for Abnormal Tone (2012)
- Splinting for Abnormal Tone – Theory into Practice (2012)
- Cognition Matters University of Birmingham (2011)

Conferences and Presentations

University of Derby Feb 2014

Oral presentation for MSc Occupational Therapy cohort titled *Collaborative Working in Private Practice*

RAaTE (Recent Advances in Technology & Engineering) Conference 2012

Oral Presentation titled *Using Portable Technology during the Rehabilitation Process following Brain Injury*

Connect OT meeting February 2013

Oral Presentation titled *Experiences following graduation*

UK Stroke Forum Annual Conference 2012

Poster presentation titled *CogWatch – Service User, Carer and Professionals Perspectives on Assistive Technology in Stroke Rehabilitation*

BAOT/COT Annual Conference 2013

Abstract titled *Using Portable Technology during the Rehabilitation Process following Brain Injury* was accepted for poster presentation; however, I was unable to attend due to maternity leave.

Membership

HCPC registered Occupational Therapist

British Association of Occupational Therapists (BAOT/COT) - Professional Membership

Member of the Specialist Section for Neurological Practice (SSNP)

Sensory Integration Network - Professional Member