



Neuro Rehab  
Group

**KIT CLEWLEY**

**CURRICULUM VITAE**

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Kit qualified as a Speech and Language Therapist in 1996 with an M Med Sci postgraduate degree in Clinical Communication Studies from Sheffield University. She is a member of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, registered with the Health and Care Professions Council and a member of the Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practice.

Kit has over 20 years' experience of working with adults who have communication and swallowing (dysphagia) difficulties as a result of a wide range of conditions including acquired disorders (e.g. brain injury and head and neck cancer) and progressive disorders (e.g. Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease and dementia).

Kit has a special interest in the areas of group therapy, alternative and augmentative communication, progressive neurology and generalising communication skills from the clinic into everyday settings.

Following qualification, Kit began work in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board in North Wales. She worked for a short time with children in the community clinic and school settings before accepting a post to work full-time with adults in both the community and acute hospital settings. In 1999, she became a specialist community adult therapist and began work to develop the group therapy service. Kit completed a research project in 2005 to establish the importance of including and training carers in group therapy so that communication skills could be more effectively transferred to the home setting. This work led to carers being included routinely into groups which focused on acquired and progressive neurological conditions.

In 2011, Kit was awarded first prize for innovative practice across North Wales for her work to develop and implement project-based group intervention. This work led to the development of the Communicating with Confidence (CWC) scheme. The CWC scheme was created by people who have communication difficulties. It raises awareness of these difficulties and enables people who have problems with communication to tell others how to help them to communicate. The CWC scheme was recognised by the Welsh government in 2012 and the clients who originally took part in the project formed a charity to promote the scheme across Wales. Kit worked with and supported the charity for 6 years.

Kit has written several articles relating to the CWC scheme, project-based intervention and carer training. She has also provided training, support and advice to Speech and Language Therapists across England and Wales with regard to implementing group therapy.

As a result of her work on the CWC scheme, Kit has contributed towards the development of the Communication Access UK (CAUK) project, which is led by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. The CAUK project has the same goals as the CWC group but aims to deliver results at a national level. The project is currently working on developing a communication symbol for the UK and training resources which aim to support people to interact with anyone who presents with a communication difficulty.



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Kit is committed to ensuring that the treatment she provides is innovative and underpinned by evidence-based practice. She is trained to provide Lee Silverman Voice Therapy, incorporates Neurologic Music Therapy into her practice and is a certified McNeill Dysphagia Therapy Programme provider. Kit is keen to use technology in her practice and advocates the use of smart tablet applications to support therapy.

The work that Kit has carried out with acquired and progressive conditions has enabled her to develop a broad knowledge base with regard to low technological communication aids, high technological communication aids, message and voice banking.

Kit began work as an independent Speech and Language Therapist in 2016 and supports adults in the community setting.