



Neuro Rehab
Group

PAT MACKAY

CURRICULUM VITAE

Pat qualified as a Speech and Language Therapist in 1988 with a BSc in Clinical Communication Studies from City University, London. She is registered with the Health Professions Council and is a member of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.

Pat has been an accredited trainer for Talking Mats since 2010 providing training for individuals and groups of care providers across health and education settings within the West Midlands. She has provided AAC training as part of the Access to Communication and Technology AAC Care Pathway service. She has also been a member of Communication Matters, West Midlands AAC Care Pathway and Central Neurorehabilitation special interest groups.

Pat's initial post following qualification was with Worthing District Health Authority, working with adults and paediatrics in both community and acute settings. She worked in district hospitals, centres for adults with learning disabilities, health centres and language school settings, providing initial assessments, treatment programmes and liaison with medical and educational staff and other professionals to ensure an optimum service for her clients.

In 1991 Pat was promoted to a post specialising in adult neurology and Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC). She played an integral role in setting up and working within a new multi-disciplinary team for people living with long term conditions and their carers, providing communication support and actively promoting health and wellbeing in their own homes and communities.

In 1992 Pat joined Wolverhampton SLT department taking the clinical lead for rehabilitation and AAC and becoming a core member of the MDT at West Park Neuro Rehab Unit. Here until 2015, she worked with a complex specialist caseload of younger adult clients (16 – 65 years), their carers, families, the MDT and other professionals, using patient-centred SMART goal setting to ensure the best possible outcomes for each individual. She was responsible for assessment, differential diagnosis, formulation of care plans, writing assessment reports and providing appropriate intervention and evaluation of treatment outcomes in respect of communication difficulties. She used Talking Mats to help clients set their own rehabilitation and discharge goals.

Pat was also responsible for the preceptorship and support of newly qualified SLT colleagues and for training and supporting part time SLT support practitioners.

In 2008 she played a lead role in developing and providing Supported Conversation Training across the Trust, enabling and encouraging all communication partners to use this Social Model approach with clients who had difficulty communicating. This initiative was published in an article by UK Connect.



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In 2010 Pat co-developed an e-learning AAC Modular Training package for SLT colleagues within Wolverhampton as well as continuing to offer AAC training, advice and providing second opinions and support.

Between 2015 and 2018 Pat continued to offer Talking Mats training to SLT staff and to work as part of the SLT team at Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust on the stroke and rehabilitation wards supporting clients with acquired brain injury in an acute setting.

Pat has experience of using supported conversation techniques and Talking Mats with vulnerable adults to help them understand decisions to be made and to enable them to express their own choices and decisions. She has supported medical and legal colleagues in establishing capacity based on a client's ability to communicate using these augmented methods of communication.