



Liz Atkinson  
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Base : Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria

A Chance  
for life

## Professional Qualifications

BSc Occupational Therapy, University College of Ripon and York St John, 1994

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## Memberships

British Association of Occupational Therapy Reg No: BT0207601

Health Professions Council Reg No: OT23508

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## Summary

I am an innovative, enthusiastic and extremely dedicated Occupational Therapist with over 27 years' experience. I have worked for the NHS, the private sector, Adult Social Care and the charity sector. I am comfortable working in the community and acute setting and I always use a client centered approach when working with both children and adults. I have a keen interest in neuro rehabilitation and enjoy working with people and their families to achieve their goals.

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## Current Positions

### August 2021 – Present: Associate Occupational Therapist, A Chance For Life Ltd

I am delighted to be re-joining A Chance For Life as an Associate Occupational Therapist after a three year absence. I have specialist knowledge and experience with:

- Neurological rehabilitation.
- Cognitive and physical assessments.
- Working with adults and children with cognitive and physical impairments.
- Assessment, preparation of reports and implementation of rehabilitation programs .
- Working with support teams to implement a client centered approach to rehabilitation.
- Moving and Handling Assessments.
- Specialist equipment provision.
- Ensuring equipment is serviced regularly and updated.
- Ensuring support teams are competent and safe using equipment.
- Identifying current or future housing needs and adaptations required.
- Vocational rehabilitation and return to work or study programs.

### December 2020 – Present : Locum Occupational Therapist, Randstad Recruitment Agency

I am also working for Cumbria Adult Social Care, covering Barrow-in-Furness and South Lakes. I work in the short-term team and my responsibilities include moving and handling assessments, equipment provision and house adaptations.

## **December 2017 – December 2020: Specialist Occupational Therapist, Stroke Rehabilitation, Furness General Hospital.**

In December 2017 I joined the Stroke Therapy Rehabilitation Team as a Specialist Occupational Therapist. Key Achievements:

- Multi-disciplinary working with patients, families, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, medical and nursing staff for effective treatment planning in an acute setting.
- Specialist cognitive assessments such as ACE III, MOCA, COTNAB and Rivermead perceptual assessment battery.
- Goal setting and treatment to rehabilitate patients.
- I instigated and developed group work for stroke patients to work on specific goals such as to improve concentration, cognition, exercise and upper limb use.
- I led and coordinated RVS volunteers to assist me with group activities.
- I liaised with external agencies and charities.
- I carried out home visits for discharge planning.
- I ensured my record keeping and reports were timely and accurate.
- I assessed and ordered the provision of specialist equipment for patients going home.
- I worked with patients in the community to continue their stroke rehabilitation in their own homes.
- I am also experienced in moving and handling techniques and can support my patients, families and support teams with moving and handling issues in the community.

## **2012 - 2017 Case Manager/Occupational Therapist, A Chance for Life, Penrith**

I joined A Chance For Life Ltd in September 2012 as a Case Manager and Occupational Therapist. My work involved:

- Working with clients and their families who were both pre and post litigation.
- Managed a caseload of clients of both children and adults, often with very complex needs.
- Working collaboratively with clients and their families to ensure their rehabilitation and support was tailored to meet their individual needs.
- Liaising with statutory services on behalf of my clients.
- Recruiting, managing and supervising support workers on behalf of clients, including 24-hour teams.
- Carrying out assessments and preparing Case Management and Occupational Therapy Reports with costs.
- Preparing tailored Case Management Plans with the client and their families, which were regularly reviewed and updated.
- Preparing individual Support Plans and Risk Assessments with the client and their families, which were regularly reviewed and updated.
- Sourced therapists, facilitated rehabilitation programs and coordinated multi-disciplinary teams.
- Worked alongside education and transitional teams within statutory services.
- Worked alongside litigation solicitors and financial deputies within the medico legal field and ensured intervention was cost effective and within the client's budget.
- Identification of suitable equipment, provision and housing adaptations.
- Involvement in monthly Headway meetings and working with volunteers to help run the meetings.

## **2003 – 2012 Senior Occupational Therapist, Social Services, Barrow-in-Furness**

I was employed as a Senior Occupational Therapist for Social Services. My responsibilities included; house adaptation, equipment provision and advising moving and handling techniques. I was also responsible for the supervision and appraisal of staff members.

## **1998 – 2003: Cumbria Cerebral Palsy**

In 1998 I began working for Cumbria Cerebral Palsy supporting people who had cerebral palsy and their families in South Cumbria. I visited people in their own homes and worked with them to ensure

that they had the support that they were entitled to. I liaised with social services, education and health and advised on therapy, equipment provision and postural management. A large part of my role was supporting children and their families. I worked in schools and contributed to the statementing process to ensure children's educational needs were met. I also supported children with less physical disabilities but with subtle cognitive difficulties. I found that their needs were often overlooked in a mainstream school setting. I spent a lot of time with teachers explaining the subtle difficulties that these children experience and how these children can be supported in a mainstream setting.

### **1995 – 1998: Senior Occupational Therapist, Wheelchair Service, Whitehaven**

I was the Clinical Lead and assessed children and adults for wheelchair provision and also postural management needs for people with neurological conditions. I ran wheelchair special seating clinics and worked in the community throughout West Cumbria.

### **Early Career**

- Qualified as an Occupational Therapist from the University College of Ripon and York St John, York, in 1994.
- Worked as a Basic Grade Occupational Therapist in a rotational post in Furness General Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness, 1994 – 1995 covering medical/surgical and orthopaedic cases.

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### **Continued Professional Development attended in past five years**

- 2021 Moving and Handling Training – Cumbria County Council  
Information Security and Data Protection – Cumbria County Council
- 2020 Customer Service – Cumbria County Council  
Equality and Diversity 2020/21 – Cumbria County Council  
Prevent Course for External Partners – Cumbria County Council  
Equality and Diversity 2020/21 – Cumbria County Council  
Learning Disability Awareness – University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay  
Autism Awareness E-Learning – University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay
- 2019 Occupational Therapy for the Rehabilitation of People with Neurological Upper Limb Disorders. Harrison Training - London  
How to Do Cognitive Rehabilitation, Brain Tree Training - Preston
- 2018 The Ripple Effect of Brain Injury, Count the Ripples, Count the Cost, Headway South Cumbria - Kendal  
Infection Prevention and Control (Core Skills) Level 2 E-Learning - Furness General Hospital  
Hand Hygiene Assessment - Furness General Hospital  
Health & Safety (NHS Core Skills) - Furness General Hospital  
Information Governance (Core Skills) E-Learning - Furness General Hospital  
Resus - BLS (Basic Life Support)  
Advanced Care Planning and Communication Skills Workshop - Furness General Hospital  
Manual Handling E-Passport - Module C - Clinical - Cycle 2 Furness General Hospital  
Manual Handling E-Passport - Module D - Clinical - Cycle 2 Furness General Hospital  
Manual Handling E-Passport - Module E - Clinical - Cycle 2 Furness General Hospital
- 2017 Emergency First Aid Training – Penrith  
International Together Conference, BABICM/CMSUK/VRA - Nottingham  
Fire - Departmental Fire Safety Awareness - Furness General Hospital

- 2016 HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work update - Penrith  
Ashtons Legal Third Brain Injury Case Management Conference – Coventry  
Occupational Therapy Show – Birmingham
- 2015 In-house Moving and Handling Training - Penrith  
Together Conference (Two Days) – BABICM, CMSUK and VRA  
Improving Life After Brain Injury – A Chance for Life Conference  
BABICM Managing Risk & Conflict in Complex Situations  
Cumbria Technology Enabled Care Event  
PIP Training & Employment Support Allowance – DWP  
Innovations in Neurorehabilitation: Glimpses of Brilliance, Irwin Mitchell  
EMG Solicitors – Catastrophic Injury: Growing & Managing a successful practice