



**Esther Marie O'Neill**  
**Specialist Occupational Therapist**

A Chance  
for life

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### **Professional Qualifications**

Masters Level 7, 20 credits, Occupational Therapy, Accreditation of Practice Placement Educators Scheme, Carlisle (University of Cumbria), 2010  
BSc Hons Occupational Therapy, Carlisle (University of Cumbria), 2008

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### **Memberships**

BABICM, British Association of Brain Injury and Complex Case Management  
NABIF, Northern Acquired Brain Injury Forum  
HCPC, Health & Care Professions Council, registered Occupational Therapist  
ROCT, Royal College of Occupational Therapists  
Committee Member of Cumbria Neurological Alliance

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### **Summary**

I have fourteen years' experience working as an OT in both acute and community settings within the health and social care sectors across North West England. Prior to joining A Chance for Life Ltd., I worked with adults from 18 years+. My most recent work has been in the field of community rehabilitation, providing specialist and integrated Occupational Therapy input for adults in North West Cumbria. I am experienced in working as part of a multidisciplinary team to provide specialist assessment, intervention, and management of adults who present with a wide variety of conditions including chronic, complex, disabling and life limiting conditions. I inherently take a holistic view of the individual I am working with, and I value the importance of being dynamic and creative. I work with both the individual, and all those around them to achieve the goals that are important to the individual and improve their quality of life. In order to achieve a client's set goals, I help facilitate connections with statutory, private and third-party organisations to achieve the best outcome for the individual.

### **Current Position**

I currently work for A Chance for Life Ltd as a Specialist Occupational Therapist. I qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 2008 and have worked in a variety of settings within the NHS. My professional career to date has primarily specialised within community rehabilitation, however, I have often worked with complex individuals who not only have a mental health diagnosis, but a variety of physical health conditions such as motor neurone disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and stroke. I have a keen interest in transferring and developing my skills within the area of brain injury.

### **My role includes:**

- I carry a mixed caseload of clients requiring Occupational Therapy input, and their ages range from seven to older adults;
- I carry out comprehensive occupational therapy assessments;
- I write reports to inform multidisciplinary team (MDT) working;
- I focus on a client-centered approach.
- I am skilled in managing and working with support teams and team leaders; making sure rehabilitation packages run smoothly for the client so they can reach their full potential in daily life.

## Key achievements

- I have worked across a wide range of areas within the NHS contributing to the ongoing development of team-working and communication skills with a variety of internal and external agencies.
- I have gained a wide range of knowledge relating to safety and security of individuals in and around their own environment
- I have developed management and leadership skills being a mentor, clinical and management supervisor for several junior members of the team contributing to concepts of the integrated management process in planning, executing, controlling and evaluating assessments scheduled/performed

## I have a wealth of experience of:

- Holistic Assessment of Need
- Medical & Functional Assessments & Reports
- Occupational Health Assessments and Advice
- Neurorehabilitation
- Spinal Injury
- Brain Injury
- Amputations
- Visual Impairment
- Recruitment
- Service Development

## Professional Pathway

**June 2018 – March 2022- Lead Rehabilitation Support Coordinator/Occupational Therapist**  
– A Chance for Life Ltd

**February 2017 – July 2017 - Service Leader** - Community Integrated Care, Cumbria.

**June 2011 – 2016 - Band 6 Specialist Occupational Therapist** – Workington Community Rehabilitation Services

**September 2009 – 2011 - Band 5 Occupational Therapist** - Workington Community Hospital, Rehab/STINT team

**January 2009 - September 2009 - Rotational Occupational Therapist** -Intermediate Allerdale Care Team, Workington

**December 2008 – January 2009 - Agency Occupational Therapist** - Blackpool Fylde & Wyre NHS Foundation Trust

**2007 – 2008 - Bank Support Worker** - Neuro Partners, Newcastle Upon Tyne

**1985 – 2005 - Heath Care Assistant & Phlebotomist** - North Cumbria Acute Hospital NHS Trust

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## Continued Professional Development in the last three years

2022	Rehabilitation Using Moving & Handling Techniques & Equipment National Mental Capacity Forum Webinar: Care & The Protection of Liberty in the face of Omicron – Essex University Supporting families entering into independent living trials Impact of neurological trauma on bathroom activity
2021	BABICM Part 4 – Issues which may occur related to direct employment ACFL Online Training – Sheri Taylor, Nutritionist BABICM Direct Payments and Adult Social Care Funding Continuing Healthcare Care Packages: Funding, Forming & Faux Pas ACFL Online Training – SLT and PDOC NMCF Webinar: Best Interests Decisions: Supporting Primary Care in Difficult Times BABICM Manage Posture 24hr-approach BABICM Body Shape, Tissue Viability BABICM Concept of Postural Care NABIF Forum Meeting The Benefits of Hydrotherapy for Rehabilitation & What's Involved in the Design

Build, & Install Process.

Rediscovering the joy of eating with taste and smell loss – BABICM

The early litigation journey: from the Rehabilitation Code to expert evidence –  
Irwin Mitchell

Understanding the impact ABI and hidden disability on community participation –  
with The Children's Trust

2020

Skills for Care: Preparation for better conversations with PA's and individual  
employers

NABIF Meeting

RCOT: Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lecture 2020

Burnetts: Anosmia Awareness

ACFL Training: Outcome Measures

ABI Solutions: Online Rehabilitation for Disorders of Executive Functioning

Eventbright: The Therapists Perspective

Eventbright: Working with Patients with Balance Challenges

Closmat: Bathroom Design – Does Appearance Matter?

Eventbright: The Theory of Balance and Falls

Burnetts: Vestibular Seminar

Ramsdens Solicitors: Q&A Ask the Experts

NMCF Webinar: Taking Stock and Looking Forward

Sintons: Ask the Experts

Irwin Mitchell: Vocational Rehabilitation for those living with a serious injury during  
Covid

Sintons: Bathroom design to support adults and children with sensory needs

BABICM: Bitesize Speaker

NMCF Webinar: Public Health and Human Rights

Closmat: Applying the Care Act (2014) preventative agenda to bathroom adaptations

Closmat: Future proofing bathroom for clients with progressive conditions

Catastrophic Injury Cases

Advocacy North: Supporting people to make informed decisions about their life

2019

Tackling Staff Misconduct

GDPR

BABICM Annual Conference 2019: Crisis, What Crisis

Sensory Profile Top Tips for Administration, Post assessment intervention.

Joined Cumbria Alliance Team

NABIF Collaborative project between ACFL and COMPASS Brain Injury  
Specialists

ACFL Business of the Year Awards

Supporting training progression of ACFL Support Workers undertaking NVQ.