



Emma Ward
Case Manager/Specialist Occupational Therapist
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A Chance
for life

Professional Qualifications

BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy – Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, 2012

Memberships

Royal College of Occupational Therapists – BT0804742

Health and Care Professions Council – OT65551

British Association of Brain Injury and Complex Case Management - 7370

Summary

I currently work for A Chance for Life Ltd as a Case Manager and Occupational Therapist. I qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 2012 and my professional career to date has primarily specialised within mental health; 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 and vast knowledge within cognitive rehabilitation and I am particularly interested in transferring and developing my skills within the area of brain injury.

Key Skills

- Carrying out comprehensive occupational therapy assessments;
- Writing reports to inform multidisciplinary team (MDT) working, focusing on a client-centered approach;
- Regular use of client-centered goal plan frameworks e.g. SMART;
- Supervision of band 5 Occupational Therapists and band 4 Assistant Practitioners;
- Training within a range of occupational therapy and psychological therapy assessment tools;
- Experience of MDT working within NHS, social care and 3rd sector organisations;
- Experience of leading a service improvement project.

Employment Pathway

January 2022: Case Manager and Occupational Therapist, A Chance for Life Ltd

Managing a caseload of both children and adults with acquired brain injury and collaboratively working with clients/families to support rehabilitation programmes. Sourcing, setting up and co-ordinating multidisciplinary support teams. Carrying out detailed assessments to inform individual support plans and risk assessment documents. Considering provision of equipment/adaptations and appropriate funding for this.

2018-2021: Specialist Occupational Therapist, Mental Health Services, Dumfries & Galloway

This role provided opportunity to continue professional development and lead within service projects such as the Home-Based Memory Rehabilitation Programme. Recently within the Covid-19 pandemic, I was deployed to work within psychological services. My role largely involved supporting individuals to understand the virus and find ways of coping with the impact this can have both physically and psychologically on our health and wellbeing. This involved supporting individuals to return to/ remain within employment throughout the pandemic, and also consider options for individuals to adapt ways of living in order to feel safe, and continue to have good quality of life.

2012-2018: Occupational Therapist, Mental Health Services, Dumfries & Galloway

Opportunity to develop clinical knowledge, skills, and expertise to deliver evidence informed assessment and treatment within mental health services. This involved working with adults/older adults across organic and functional diagnosis within community, acute inpatient settings and intellectual disabilities.

I spent time undertaking various psychological therapies training such as Behavioural Family Therapy, Behavioural Activation and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy approaches and have skilled knowledge of the psychological therapies matrix.

Key Achievements

Within my time as a mental health occupational therapist, I have specialised in organic mental health and in particular, within cognitive rehabilitation. I have been an integral part of, and recently spent time as lead for a service improvement project; establishing the Home-Based Memory Rehabilitation Programme within NHS Dumfries & Galloway. Due to the outcomes achieved from this programme, it has now been adopted as an NHS Scotland-wide programme and is recognised within Scotland's 3rd National Dementia Strategy. Involvement within this project has provided me with the opportunity to develop sound leadership skills and work towards both service development and my own personal and professional development. I am very proud to have been involved within this project.

Training/ CPD

2022

- Acquired Brain Injury
- Moving and Handling
- Safeguarding
- Mental Capacity
- Food Safety and Hygiene Level 1
- GDPR UK Essentials
- Infection Prevention and Control
- The journey towards adulthood in child brain injury

2021

- Safe Information Handling
- Adult/Child Support and Protection
- Equality and Diversity
- Infection Control

2020

- NHS Conflict Management

2019

- Practice Educator update training
- Cognitive Behavioural approaches to anxiety and depression
- Clinical Supervision
- Falls – Community
- NES: Dementia Skilled Practice
- Promoting Excellence
- NHS Better Conversations