

Kristy Blaen

Lead Case Manager

& Specialist Occupational Therapist

Based in: Dumfries & Galloway

Covers: Cumbria and Southern Scotland



Profile

Kristy has over 12 years' experience as a case manager and occupational therapist with A Chance for Life Ltd.

During this time, she has developed considerable expertise working with children and adults who have a range of complex, life changing injuries and conditions; in particular, severe brain injuries and orthopaedic conditions.

Kristy manages a mixed case management and OT caseload, working with clients both pre and post litigation.

Kristy is also a lead case manager, providing guidance, mentorship and supervision for a team of clinicians and contributing to the clinical management and service development of the company.

Kristy uses a client centred approach, working closely with her clients, their families and external support systems. Kristy regularly leads and manages large multi-disciplinary teams working on goal directed programs as part of the client's rehabilitation.

Current clients are spread over the north of England and up to the central belt of Scotland. Current intervention includes helping clients gain voluntary employment, learn to drive, complete special adaptations to the client's home, medical management and best interests decisions, Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings and safeguarding of vulnerable clients and their family.

Kristy prides herself on her communication and rapport built with her clients.

Areas of expertise

Children, adults and older adults
Acquired brain injury
Spinal cord injury
Cerebral palsy
Complex orthopaedic injury
Amputations
Mental health conditions
PDOC
Epilepsy
Sensory impairment
Learning disability
Stroke
Dementia
Neurodevelopmental disorders
Encephalitis / hydrocephalitis
CFS / ME
Complex medical needs
Behaviour management
SEN / EHCP
Benefits and appeals
Securing statutory funding
Forensic cases
Sign language (Makaton 1 & 2)
Sensory integration

Qualifications

BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy, 2009

Memberships & registrations

British Association of Brain Injury Case Managers (BABICM) - Advanced member
Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
British Association of Occupational Therapists (BAOT)



To discuss a referral or for more information, please contact A Chance for Life Ltd

T: 01768 891709 E: admin@achanceforlife.co.uk

W: www.chanceforlife.co.uk

Professional Experience

Kristy's current role includes:

- Identifying, setting up and reviewing client-centred goals and programmes, including case management plans, to meet each client's individual's needs
- Establishing positive relationships with clients and families, helping them navigate the challenges of brain injury and supporting them through the legal process
- Carrying out Immediate Needs Assessments and preparing reports and costs
- Sourcing and co-ordinating multi-disciplinary teams
- Liaising with solicitors, insurers, education authorities and statutory providers
- Carrying out physical and cognitive occupational therapy assessments, preparing reports and establishing therapy programmes
- Assessments for specialist equipment i.e. seating/ wheelchairs/ adapted vehicles
- Working alongside architects; designing and implementing housing adaptations
- Training support teams to use specialist equipment, preparing guidelines and risk assessments
- Providing management and supervision for a team of clinical staff

Kristy is now also available for Expert Witness work in the field of Paediatric Neurological Occupational Therapy, making use of her extensive and up to date specialist clinical and report writing skills, mentored and supported by our Head of Case Management & Expert Witness, Sally Wilkinson and our Director, Louise Chance.

Key Achievements

Kristy helped a young adult with physical difficulties and limited communication to access technology that enables him to communicate his wants and needs, make his own choices and participate in his own rehabilitation.

Working alongside an architect and physiotherapist, Kristy assisted in the planning and coordination of housing adaptations that enabled a child with behavioural difficulties to access safe, soft play with his younger sibling.

Kristy set up and managed a multi-disciplinary team assisting a young adult's successful return to work. Throughout this process, regular goal setting reviews and collaboration between an independent workplace risk assessor and employer were key to managing an appropriate, phased return.

Kristy has successfully helped clients with complex needs to plan, risk assess, organise and go on holiday abroad, with the appropriate level of support.

Professional Pathway

2018-Present Senior/Lead Case Manager & Specialist Occupational Therapist, A Chance for Life Ltd

Combining her OT and case management clinical roles alongside overseeing the OT service as a whole and management of the clinical therapy team in Cumbria and Scotland.

2018 Acting Lead Occupational Therapist and Case Manager - A Chance for Life Ltd

Continuing her clinical role, alongside leading the therapy team. Leadership role involving supporting and supervising staff, managing ongoing continuing professional development needs of the therapy team, and progressing clinical governance in the company.

2011-2017 Case Manager/Specialist Occupational Therapist – A Chance for Life Ltd

Working with children and adults with acquired brain injury pre- and post- litigation. Supporting clients and their families with education of brain injury. Setting up and managing multi-disciplinary teams and support teams. Carrying out SMART goals with clients to progress their rehabilitation. Kristy also assisted in setting up the South Cumbria Headway group in Kendal and acted as Vice Chairperson from September 2013-October 2014.

2009-2011 Occupational Therapist, Acute Rotation

At NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Kristy gained considerable experience in inpatient neurological rehabilitation, orthopaedics, medical and surgical care, and elderly medicine.

2006-2009 Student Occupational Therapist and Brain Injury Support Worker

During her OT degree, Kristy completed her elective placement within paediatrics which has always been a key interest. She also worked part time as a brain injury support worker, gaining valuable skills working with clients and their families, providing rehabilitation at home and supporting clients to integrate back into the community.

Kristy's recent training record is available on request.