

Sarah Smith

Case Manager

Independent Occupational Therapist

Profile

Sarah is a professional occupational therapist/case manager with extensive experience gained in the NHS, social services and charitable sector in the UK and New Zealand.

Her extensive clinical experience includes working with clients who have acquired brain injury, spinal injury, amputations, visual impairment and multiple orthopaedic injuries.

She is skilled in case management, complex rehabilitation and return to work cases, with experience of working closely with multi-disciplinary teams, physiotherapists, neuropsychologists, medics, solicitors, insurance companies and employers.

Specialisms

- Catastrophic injury
- Traumatic and acquired brain injury
- Spinal injuries
- Amputations - upper limb/lower limb
- Musculo-skeletal/orthopaedics
- Visual impairment
- Driving assessment
- Vocational rehabilitation

Ages covered

- Adult
- Adolescents

Biography

Sarah qualified as an occupational therapist (OT) in 1998. She has clinical experience of working with adults across NHS and independent practice combining the roles of OT, case manager and panel member with the HCPC (Health and Care Professions Council).

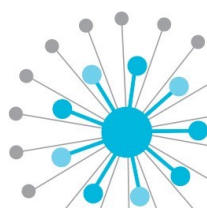
Working as a case manager since 2014, Sarah specialises in the case management of clients who have sustained major catastrophic, life-changing injuries, supporting them from the early assessment stage through to settlement.

She has extensive experience of assessment, report writing, goal setting and a comprehensive understanding of statutory services' obligations regarding assessment and service provision.

Having worked as a clinical lead OT within the NHS, Sarah finds this experience is invaluable in achieving excellent communication and successful working relationships between statutory service and independent providers within a multi-disciplinary environment.

She has also worked as an associate for the HCPC - the statutory regulator of fifteen professions - since 2018. Working alongside lay members and legal assessors, she considers the evidence presented to her and makes decisions on a registrant's fitness to practise. She has participated in final hearings, interim order hearings, reviews of substantive orders and investigating panels.

Sarah manages these roles as well as a busy OT practice where she supervises other OTs which enables her to remain current in her practise especially with regards to neurological assessment and modern technological advances.



Qualifications

- BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy, University of Northampton, 1998
- Institute of Leadership and Management, Level 4, 2012

Memberships

- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
- Case Management Society UK (CMSUK)
- Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT)
- Royal College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section - Independent Practice
- Royal College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section - Work

Contact details

Location:

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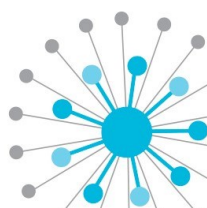
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Website:

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Clinical skills and experience

- Case management of clients with complex brain injury and various levels of complete, incomplete, paraplegic and tetraplegic spinal cord injury.
- Skilled in liaising with and co-ordinating multi-disciplinary teams and support workers, in the NHS and private sector.
- Specialist skills in completing immediate needs assessments, telephone triage assessments and making goal orientated rehabilitation recommendations.
- Proven clinical skills in assessing and implementing cognitive rehabilitation techniques for people following brain and spinal cord injury. Assessment and treatment of attention, comprehensive assessment of visual processing, memory, information processing and executive problems.
- Experienced in assessing for specialist equipment for clients with a wide range of disabilities. Including liaising with architects and surveyors to give advice on suitable level access properties for wheelchair user clients.
- Experience of specialist neuro-upper limb assessments and treatment.
- Treatment of all neurological conditions and treatment may include; functional electrical stimulation, Saebo flex splinting, facilitating normal movement patterns and compensatory techniques.
- Experience of assessing clients with cognitive and physical impairments regarding ability to continue to drive, including production of reports for the DVLA.
- Committed to continuing professional development - full details of recent training are available on request.
- Client and solicitor feedback/testimonials are available on request.



Career history - private sector

- Independent Occupational Therapist & Case Manager - Independence Works Ltd** 2017 - present
- Delivering comprehensive case management for adolescents and adults suffering from traumatic brain injury, amputations, complex orthopaedic injuries and polytrauma by formulating and implementing appropriate rehabilitation treatment plans.
 - Performing all aspects of commissioning care services, specialist therapy and psychology services.
 - Supporting clients to return to driving where possible, advising on vehicle adaptations and specialist vehicles.
 - Extensive experience regarding the adaptation of properties and environments including fully accessible accommodation for wheelchair users.
- HCPC Partner Panel Member** 2018 - present
- Handling complaints about fitness to practice of HCPC registered occupational therapists including participating in investigating panels and tribunals.
- Independent Occupational Therapist, Company Director - Cusker Consultancy Ltd** 2014 - present
- Supervising a team of neuro-occupational therapy associates and case managers.
 - Clinical caseload of private clients with neurological impairment requiring occupational therapy assessment and treatment.
- Expert Witness – Somek and Associates** 2016 - 2019
- Associate expert witness producing quantum and occupational therapy reports for the court.

Career history - statutory sector

- Professional Lead Occupational Therapist, Community Neurology Services, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust** 2009 - 2014
- Experience of treating client's following head injury, stroke, degenerative conditions, spinal injuries, cerebral palsy and other neurological conditions.
 - Responsibilities included: supervising a team of occupational therapists and co-ordinating the multi-disciplinary community stroke team.
- Senior Occupational Therapist, William Merritt Disabled Living Centre, Leeds** 2006 - 2009
- Senior Occupational Therapist, Piers Meadow Recruitment Agency** 2002 - 2006
- Senior Occupational Therapist, Community Rehabilitation Team, Timaru Hospital, New Zealand** 2001
- Senior Rotational Post in Amputee Rehabilitation, Traumatic Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and General Surgery, Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust** 1999 - 2001
- Junior Rotation Post in Community Rehabilitation, Elderly Rehabilitation and Adult Mental Health, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust** 1998 - 1999

