

## Profile

A highly experienced and skilled occupational therapist and case manager, Clare specialises in the case management of adults and adolescents following major catastrophic injuries including brain injury, polytrauma, neurological and peripheral nerve impairments, amputations and psychological challenges.

Clare is also an experienced medico-legal expert for care, case management and occupational therapy.

## Specialisms

- Traumatic and acquired brain injuries
- Neurological rehabilitation
- Brachial plexus and peripheral nerve injuries
- Amputations - upper limb/lower limb
- Catastrophic polytrauma injury
- Musculo-skeletal/orthopaedics
- Hand injuries
- Medico-legal reporting

## Ages covered

- Adult
- Adolescent

## Biography

Clare graduated in 1991 as an occupational therapist. She has worked as an independent case manager since 2008. She is passionate about the impact and effectiveness of early assessment and rehabilitation, having worked with clients still in major trauma units or intensive care, as both a treating therapist and as a case manager.

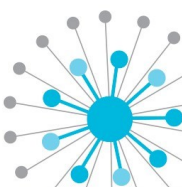
Her clinical area of expertise is with clients who have sustained a brain injury, severe orthopaedic trauma, brachial plexus injury, amputation, or complex polytrauma.

She is experienced in working with clients who are minimally aware with high dependency and 24-hour care needs, through to higher functioning clients looking to return to education or work. She has a particular interest in higher level cognitive issues and challenging behaviour, with experience supporting clients in difficult social circumstances and managing safeguarding needs.

Her work spans adult and adolescent clients, working with whole families and following multi-party accidents. With extensive experience working within intensive care, acute hospital and community settings, Clare has worked across both statutory and private sectors. She applies this experience to her role when establishing and managing multidisciplinary teams across agencies and sectors who will work collectively to meet the client's needs.

Clare is a confident report writer and uses her knowledge base to undertake comprehensive assessments and develop rehabilitation and support packages that are tailored to the client's individual needs and goals, no matter how complex or challenging.

She also undertakes expert witness work for the Court regarding care, case management and occupational therapy for personal injury and clinical negligence claims.



## Qualifications

- MSc Public Health (Health Systems Management), University of London, 2006
- BSc Occupational Therapy, La Trobe University, Australia, 1991

## Memberships

- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
- Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT)
- Case Management Society UK (CMSUK)
- British Association of Brain Injury Case Managers (BABICM)

## Contact details

### Location:

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### Tel:

01733 750441 / 07796262355

### Email:

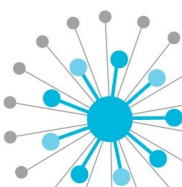
clare.chiwandire@independenceworks.net

### Website:

www.independenceworks.net

## Clinical skills and experience

- Provision and co-ordination of comprehensive assessment, rehabilitation programs and support packages for brain injured clients.
- Confident communicator and skilled in liaising with and managing multidisciplinary teams.
- Experienced working in brain injury rehabilitation including intensive care, high dependency units and specialist trauma intensive care units.
- An advocate for early and proactive rehabilitation input, Clare developed a clinical triage service regarding personal injury referrals and has provided numerous training workshops on occupational therapy, rehabilitation and case management.
- Experienced in assisting with specialist equipment, home, and workplace modifications.
- Hand therapy skills including both musculoskeletal/plastics and neurological splinting, wound and scar management.
- Skilled in liaising with employers and schools, undertaking and co-ordinating vocational rehabilitation or return to education as appropriate.
- Management of complex or chronic pain.
- Management of associated mental health issues (such as PTSD, anxiety and depression).
- Works closely with Deputies for the Court of Protection, as well as managing safeguarding and best interest decisions.
- Presented at Headway Deputy Conference at the request of the OPG.
- Provision of professional supervision and mentorship for other occupational therapist case managers.
- Strong organisational and managerial skills including management of occupational therapy and physiotherapy service provision over three hospital sites with over 100 staff.
- Expert witness work, specialising in medico-legal reports on care and rehabilitation needs following traumatic brain injury and complex injuries, including numerous high value claims and experience in court as a witness under cross-examination and at CICA tribunal.
- Completed Bond Solon course in Courtroom Skills.
- 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** 2008 - present

- Current role centres around delivering comprehensive occupational therapy case management services to clients following serious injury – primarily brain injury and complex trauma including orthopaedic injuries, amputation and brachial plexus/peripheral nerve injuries.
- Single instruction (claimant) and joint referrals.
- Supervisor/mentor for OT case managers, assisting with training programme for new colleagues.

**Care and Rehabilitation Expert Witness** 2006 - present

- Preparation of care, case management and occupational therapy medico-legal reports and associated expert witness work. Initially with Jacqueline Webb & Co, now with Peritus - independent care expert network.
- Attendance at court and CICA tribunal as an expert witness.

## Career history – statutory sector

**Part-time Locum OT, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust** 2008

- Adult inpatient mental health and community services.

**Clinical Lead (Therapy Services) / Clinical Manager (Therapy Services), Peterborough and Stamford NHS Trust** 2000 - 2008

- Neurological and orthopaedic rehabilitation, wheelchair services, amputee rehabilitation, hand therapy, development of rapid response services to A & E, and services to critical care unit.

**Senior Occupational Therapist, Ministry of Health, Zimbabwe** 1997 - 1999

- Based at Victoria Falls Hospital, role included outpatient occupational therapy service as well as supporting the implementation of community based rehabilitation program for Matabeleland North - including staff training in partnership with Australian Volunteers International. Paediatric and adult services provided for a range of neurological, orthopaedic, medical and mental health conditions.
- Due to the unique location and in partnership with private Medical Air Rescue Service, this role included supporting early management of trauma patients including road traffic accidents, tourists in adrenaline and wildlife activities (near-drownings, high impact injuries, animal attacks e.g. hippopotamus).

**Senior Occupational Therapist , Alfred Hospital, Australia** 1996

- Occupational therapist for the major trauma unit including intensive care (Transport Accident Commission funded). Dealing with seriously injured patients and their families from the point of admission through to discharge. Input included early assessment and management of PTA, positioning and splinting, through to early therapy input, support and education for families, equipment and discharge planning.

**Occupational Therapy Positions within the NHS, Angela Shaw Agency, United Kingdom** 1994 - 1995

- Various senior occupational therapy locum positions including Royal London Hospital, Central Middlesex Hospital and Northwick Park Hospital. Positions held included inpatient neurological and stroke rehabilitation, outpatient hand therapy, orthopaedic trauma, acute medicine and care of the elderly.

**Occupational Therapist , Royal Melbourne Hospital, Australia** 1991 - 1993

- Rotational post including neurology/stroke acute assessment and inpatient rehabilitation, orthopaedics, oncology, plastic and burns (including hand therapy and burns splinting in theatre plus out-patients, pressure care and rehabilitation).

