



Life Changing Rehabilitation

Gail Archer

**Clinical Innovations Lead &
Group Neurological
Occupational Therapy Lead**

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

Following the completion of my degree, I worked in the community aids and adaptations service in South Lanarkshire assessing. This involved the assessing of clients and their environments to provide appropriate recommendations for the provision of equipment and housing adaptations.

Following that, I developed a strong interest in neurology, initially working as the Specialist Occupational Therapist within statutory social services delivering specialist rehabilitation to adults with traumatic brain injury. I developed the rehabilitation service and had a key role establishing the Headway South Lanarkshire support service. I was a member of the National Managed Clinical Network for Acquired Brain Injury which developed standards of care and information for clients in Scotland in 2007-2009.

In 2009 I successfully completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Brain Injury Rehabilitation with Queen Margaret University and the Scottish Neuro-Rehabilitation Service at the Astley Ainslie Hospital, Edinburgh. This incorporated training in all disciplines and general Neurology/Neuro-Anatomy including challenging behaviours.

Since 2009 I have continued to deepen and broaden my experiences and interest in neurorehabilitation at Neural Pathways Group Occupational Therapist and Clinical Innovation Lead, working with adults and children with a range of complex conditions, including complex brain and spinal injury and dual diagnosis. This has involved rehabilitation for clients in relation to activities of daily living, vocational rehabilitation, cognitive rehabilitation and the adaptation of their environments where appropriate.

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KEY SKILLS

Technical Skills

- Ability to carry out Assessment of Rehabilitation Potential documenting predicted potential
- Ability to carry out Immediate Needs Assessment
- Accredited assessor for Assessment of Motor and Process Skills
- Implementing complex packages of specialist neuro rehabilitation within the community and residential settings
- Assessing and recommending for environmental adaptations or adaptive equipment
- Assessing and treating vestibular problems
- Evidence based clinical report writing
- Report writing for medico-legal cases
- Expert witness in Occupational Therapy
- Special interest in managing challenging behaviours

Personal Skills

- Ability to maintain very positive relationships within challenging circumstances
- Good communication within the multidisciplinary team and with external agencies using various formats.
- An engaging and problem-solving approach with clients of all ages and cultural background.
- Providing clinical leadership and mentoring of staff

CERTIFICATES AND MEMBERSHIP

- Vestibular Rehabilitation for Occupational Therapists
- Assessment of Motor and Process Skills
- Health Professionals Council
- British Association of Occupational Therapists
- ASA Teacher (Swimming)
- Advanced Cognitive Workshop – Attention and Information Processing
- Insight Workshop
- Cognitive Workshop for Professionals

EDUCATION

- BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy
- Diploma – Therapeutic Body Massage
- Post Graduate Certificate in Brain Injury Rehabilitation

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Job Title: Clinical Innovations Lead/Group Lead Occupational Therapist

Company Name: Neural Pathways - Gateshead

Date of Employment: November 2008 until Present

Established in 2004, Neural Pathways is an independent sector organisation specialising in the delivery of interdisciplinary rehabilitation for people with long term neurological conditions. We provide specialist therapy in the client's own home and community and within a number of residential rehabilitation centres across the north of England.

Key responsibilities:

- Carrying out specialist Occupational Therapy assessments
- Devising and delivery appropriate treatment programs based on individual goals and needs
- Assessing and treating common vestibular problems including BPPV
- Liaison with relevant organizations such as solicitors, case managers, NHS health care providers and social services as required
- Providing Clinical Leadership for the Occupational Therapists within the company
- Providing staff training in Neurology as required
- Accredited AMPS assessor (Assessment of Motor and Process Skills)
- Expert witness assessment and report writing for medico-legal purposes
- Clinical supervision of other staff members within Neural Pathways
- Maintaining clinical awareness of innovations in equipment, adaptations, treatment techniques and knowledge base to provide clinical innovations
- training/CPD opportunity for all of the team members within Neural Pathways

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Outside of my professional role, I have a keen interest in the sport of swimming. I previously carried out both paid and voluntary work in teaching and coaching swimmers of all ages from learn to swim to national and district standard. I found this extremely rewarding and since departing I do continue to keep contact with the children I previously taught, although they are now adults – which makes me feel old!

In my personal life I live with my husband and little girl in the Gateshead area and enjoy traveling to visit family in Scotland when we can.