

## **Case Management Services Ltd**

### **Elaine Stewart, BSc**

Elaine is an occupational therapy graduate with 17 years experience of working in physical and neurological rehabilitation, and more latterly, education. She graduated from Queen Margaret University College in 1991, and began working within a rotational post, which included acute medical assessment and elderly rehabilitation.

Following this she commenced working within a stroke rehabilitation unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Dundee as a senior occupational therapist. During this time she became involved within a multidisciplinary team framework, providing rehabilitation for younger adults aged 16 to 65 years, who had suffered a stroke. This role included the provision of occupational therapy to individuals within a respite facility for younger adults with physical disabilities such as cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injury.

In 1997 Elaine was then involved in the development of the Centre for Brain Injury Rehabilitation (CBIR), at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Dundee, which evolved from the existing stroke rehabilitation unit. This centre was developed to provide intensive rehabilitation for young adults with acquired brain injury (primarily traumatic brain injury and stroke) within an interdisciplinary framework. Elaine assisted in the development of the centre, and as the full time senior occupational therapist, had responsibility for the co-ordination of the occupational therapy team. She developed a high level of experience in cognitive, perceptual and physical assessment, goal setting, and working collaboratively within a highly specialised interdisciplinary team. She became responsible for the co-ordination of rehabilitation assistants, and gained experience in cognitive and communication groups, working collaboratively with neuropsychology and speech and language therapy.

During this time, Elaine also became actively involved in Headway, the brain injury association. This is a national charitable organisation which has local groups providing support to individuals with brain injury and their families. Elaine's role involved co-ordinating social group activities, and in collaboration with an acquired brain injury worker, developed educational material for the individuals and their families. She remained active in this role for seven years.

In 2001, Elaine decided to develop her skills in education, and accepted a post as a lecturer within the School of Health Sciences at the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. Elaine is still currently in this post, which primarily involves the undergraduate education of BSc (Hons) occupational therapy students. Elaine's specific roles include the co-ordination and delivery of an undergraduate neurology module, which is shared between occupational therapy and physiotherapy students. Her other main role is the co-ordination of practice placements for undergraduate occupational therapy students. Other aspects of her role include moving and handling training and supervising research projects.

To maintain her clinical skills, Elaine has participated in clinical work within the acute neurosciences department at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, and also established and developed

a north-east regional group of the former National Association of Neurological Occupational Therapists (NANOT), a specialist section on the College of Occupational Therapists.

Elaine commenced working with Case Management Services in 2002. As regards her medical/legal input, Elaine has been involved in preparing Immediate Needs Reports, Future Care/Needs Reports and Past Care for individuals with brain injury and spinal cord injury. She has also had some experience as a Case Manager. She has particular interests in the cognitive and behavioural aspects of traumatic brain injury, and is interested in the areas of community rehabilitation and case management. She also has a special interest in vocational rehabilitation, and is trained in the use of the Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (AMPS) and the Joule Functional Capacity Evaluation by Valpar.