

Case Management Services Ltd

Shona Kerr, BSc Occupational Therapy

Shona graduated from Robert Gordon University in 1994. She began her occupational therapy career in an acute physical setting gaining experience over a period of two years in a wide variety of areas: orthopaedics, medical/stroke, amputations, respiratory and neurology.

From 1996 – 2002 Shona specialised within the area of Neurology. She worked within a multi-disciplinary team setting, working both within an acute and out-patients rehabilitative setting. Her role also included being involved attending a consultant-led movement disorder clinic whereby she gave advice to newly diagnosed adults and working hardening, cognitive retraining and back to work assessment and support for brain-injured adults. It was during this period that Shona developed a special interest in vocational rehabilitation.

From 2000 – 2002 Shona also worked on a part-time secondment basis with the Employment Unit as a support worker. This involved setting up work experience placements and supporting brain injured adults back to work or into voluntary unpaid work.

In 2002 – 2008 she worked within the Assistive Technology Service. This included close working with clinical engineers and engineering technicians. The client group was mainly adults with a range of complex physical and learning disabilities. Her main role was to assess clients seating, mobility and pressure needs and to provide environmental assessments. Clients were assessed in various environments from clinics to the home setting.

At the beginning of 2008, Shona joined Working Health Services Dundee. This is a two year vocational rehabilitation pilot project which involves providing support within a MDT setting to individuals who work for small to medium private businesses within Dundee. The adult client group medical issues range from musculoskeletal, brain injury to mental health problems. The focus of the team is to prevent clients from going off sick and/or increase their chances of returning to work sooner. Shona's role within the team is to participate in case conferencing in relation to decision making for clients, to assess individual clients which involves vocational profiling; job analysis; work site evaluation; goal setting; career analysis; negotiations with employers; and, on-job support.

Shona has worked for Case Management Services since 2000. This has involved writing past and future care needs for adults who have suffered a brain injury. She hopes now to focus on the area of vocational rehabilitation for all client groups. This would involve assessing clients' past employment and future employment needs in relation to current abilities. Some clients may never return to work, but their employment might not necessarily be paid, therefore the focus would be on providing structure to their day in some other form.