

Amy Dooley, Occupational Therapist

Amy Dooley BSc (Hons) is an experienced Occupational Therapist having qualified from the University of East Anglia in 2000.

She is registered with the Health Professions Council and is a member of the British Association of Occupational Therapists and the College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section – Independent Practice (COTISSIP).

Amy has worked in Independent Practice and in the NHS and Social Services gaining extensive experience, both at a clinical and managerial level, working with adults and children with complex disabilities.

Upon qualifying as an OT, Amy's first post was in the NHS in Essex gaining hospital experience in a mental health setting. From this Amy moved into a rehabilitation post within a Care of the Elderly Physical Health setting and then remaining within the NHS she completed two rotational posts within an acute inpatient setting and an oncology setting. Amy secured a promotion and went on to work for Social services in Suffolk as a Community OT. She worked with adults in the community gaining a vast amount of experience of assessing clients with a wide variety of disabilities including Neurological

conditions, Amputation, Orthopaedic conditions and Spinal Injury. Her work involved recommending equipment, specialist housing adaptations and providing ongoing advice in relation to care and benefit needs.

Following her relocation to Northamptonshire in late 2002 Amy gained experience working within an inpatient Brain Injury Unit. Working as part of a multidisciplinary team Amy carried out therapy sessions with clients either within the unit or in the community, assisting them to rehabilitate and reach their personal goals. From this post Amy moved back into the community working within a Social Services setting once again. This post enabled Amy to start working with children in the community, recommending specialist equipment and housing adaptations as well as supporting parents to ensure that they are receiving the appropriate support to care for their child.

Due to a change in personal circumstances Amy relocated to Essex and secured a position within Essex Social Services. Amy assessed and worked with a range of adults and children with complex disabilities recommending specialist equipment and housing adaptations. Amy worked closely with the local Housing department within the



council and various Housing Associations to identify clients who could be re-housed and ensure that future properties met their ongoing needs. This work also involved moving and handling and liaising with other third party organisations where necessary. Amy remained with Essex Social services until January 2006. During this time she was seconded to a Senior Practitioner post and eventually was successful in securing the post on a permanent basis. In addition to the above clinical responsibilities Amy streamlined several work processes including the referral taking process and the duty system. Amy was also a signatory for specialist equipment for both adults and children.

In 2006 Amy returned to Northamptonshire where she secured a post within Social services as an Advanced Occupational therapy Practitioner. Within this post Amy continued to work with the most complex cases, both adults and children. It also provided her with the opportunity to train other staff in the provision and recommendation of specialist equipment and adaptations and Amy became the lead OT for children's cases within the service. Although her primary role was assessing for adaptations and equipment, by working closely with the case managers she gained extensive experience of case managing

clients receiving large packages of support including direct payments. Amy worked with children from birth to 19 years old with a wide variety of disabilities including birth injuries, such as Cerebral Palsy, Autism, including Asperger's syndrome, children with Learning Difficulties and/or developmental delay and Congenital abnormalities. In conjunction with therapy colleagues within Education Amy assisted to assess and provide for specialist modular seating and provided reports and attended Child Protection Conferences.

In 2009 Amy was promoted to a senior management position within a Milton Keynes Health and Social Care setting. The post reported to Director Level Management within Health and Social Care. The post was very high profile within Milton Keynes and the service was respected and valued at a national level. Amy remained in this post until February 2012. This was a substantial promotion and the post allowed Amy to use all of her OT skills to manage a large Intermediate care service which spanned across both Health and Social Care sectors and comprised of several different services, ranging from qualified Nurses and Therapists to teams of carers and support workers. The service provided both inpatient and community re-ablement to support people in the community and to avoid admission to hospital. She managed over 100 staff that



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ranged from unqualified support workers to therapists, social workers and doctors. The service had a substantial budget of approximately £5 million which Amy managed and was financially accountable for. She worked closely with senior colleagues from Health and Social Care as well as third sector organisations. Amy was a key player in promoting Social Care Reform and the personalisation agenda to services reviewing care packages and looking to offer people more choice and control over how their needs are met. Whilst in post Amy project managed the start up of new services including a Community Stroke Rehabilitation Team and the expansion of one of the inpatient units. Part of this Management post also led to Amy managing the Continuing Healthcare service within Milton Keynes and being the Chair of the Milton Keynes Continuing Healthcare panel which makes decisions regarding eligibility and the availability of funding. In addition to her sound clinical skills and judgment this post required Amy to be organised, take decisions efficiently and effectively, defend those decisions when required and be an excellent communicator.

Amy has been working as an expert witness since March 2011. Initially on a part time basis but since February 2012 her expert witness work has increased enabling her to enjoy working as an Independent Occupational Therapist and an expert witness on a full time basis. Amy has received instructions for both Claimant and Defendant cases. Amy has written reports for both adults and children.



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