

## Emma Merriman, Occupational Therapist

Emma Merriman qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 1995 with the University of Liverpool. She is a member of the following organisations: British Association of Occupational Therapists; Specialist Section for Neurological Practice; Specialist Section for Independent Practitioners; Brain Injury Social Work Group; Case Management Society UK and British Association of Brain Injury Case Managers

Emma was until recently the Regional Representative for the Specialist Section for Neurological Practice within the College of Occupational Therapists where responsibilities included organising and co-ordinating meetings and training events locally and liaising with other members both at a local and National level. She remains an active participant.

Emma is a member of the British Association of Brain Injury Case Managers through which she has achieved her advanced membership status. Since qualifying, she has gained in depth experience in a variety of settings, working with adolescents and adults with complex neurological problems and with a particular interest in Brain Injury.

Emma's first post, was rotational and enabled her to gain experience in Acute Neurology and Neuro Surgery, Stroke Rehabilitation, Pain Management and Community Mental health. Her first senior role was in Brain Injury Rehabilitation where she developed skills in neurological splinting of the hand, postural assessment and management, and complex seating/wheelchair assessments as well as skills in complex physical and cognitive neurological rehabilitation.

Emma spent some time working as a locum therapist all over the UK. She was able to gain valuable experience working in the Royal Hospital for Neuro Disability, Putney; The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, Nobles Hospital, Isle of Man and the Queen Elizabeth Foundation, Banstead. All of these posts specialised in Brain Injury and Neurology and enabled her to consolidate existing skills whilst observing new and alternative practices. Locuming also enabled her to work in other areas such as medical and surgical in-patients, community rehabilitation, equipment and adaptations and accident and emergency.

In these posts, Emma developed a rounded knowledge and skill base, which continues to stand her in good stead within her current



working practice. During her time at Banstead Place (Brain Injury Rehab Centre), Emma worked as the Head of the Occupational Therapy Department where she was the driving force in the redevelopment of documentation approaches and systems, and provider of staff training regarding documentation. She was instrumental in establishing systems of supervision and support for the staff team and was responsible for the development of the Occupational Therapy component of the Vocational Rehabilitation Service.

Following a return to the South West, Emma worked for Bristol Community Rehabilitation Service firstly practising Community Rehabilitation but then moving on to the development and co-ordination of a complex competency training scheme for support workers in line with government standards and frameworks. Within this role, she was responsible for writing, developing and presenting training courses on a variety of competencies across Bristol Intermediate Care Service.

Emma started practising as a Brain Injury Case Manager in 2004 and has extensive experience working with clients who have a head injury and with complex family dynamics. Her special interest is people with significant cognitive impairment.

Emma's work has included undertaking complex needs assessments, writing appropriate reports and liaison with medical and legal professionals and family members. She has experience of working under the guidance of The Code of Best Practice in Rehabilitation and to the Standards of Practice as recommended by CMSUK and BABICM.

Emma strongly believes in the importance of continued professional development and to this end ensures that she regularly attends conferences and clinical training courses. She has recently completed her AMPS (Assessment of Motor Processing Skills) training and is now fully accredited.

Emma commenced work for Bush & Company Rehabilitation as a Case Manager and Rehabilitation Consultant in 2007 and combines this work along with her private clinical contracts. In July 2009, Emma took on the role of Senior Case Manager and is now responsible for inducting new Case Managers and supervising a team of 6 Case Managers all working for Bush & Company in the South West Region.



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Registered Office

March House, Long March, Daventry, Northants NN11 4NR  
Tel 01327 876210 | Fax 01327 872559 | DX 155100 DAVENTRY 4

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