

## Hazel Ross, Vocational Case Manager

Hazel Ross is a Chartered Occupational Psychologist with 20 years experience working in the areas of unemployment research, mental health, disability and vocational rehabilitation, including acquired brain injury. Hazel has worked for the NHS, Social Services and for Central Government - working as an independent occupational psychologist for the Home Office.

As a psychology graduate Hazel worked for the NHS Substance Misuse Service and as a Nursing Assistant in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS). In 1998 Hazel joined East Sussex Social Services Disability Team delivering the Work Preparation Programme on behalf of the Employment Service (DfEE). During this period she developed strong links with the Disability Employment Advisers at Job centres throughout Sussex, Surrey, Kent and Hampshire. She also provided support to employing organisations. While working for Social Services, Hazel also managed a European funded pre employment training initiative for people with an acquired disability.

In 2001 Hazel was invited by Rehab UK to join the Surrey Brain Injury Employment Project: this was a pilot project based at Surrey Headway, supporting the vocational rehabilitation of eight people with an acquired brain injury.

Between 2002 and 2004 she specialised in mental health vocational rehabilitation, including severe and enduring mental illness. Between 2005 and 2008 Hazel worked for Sussex Careers supporting adults returning to work following illness or injury, including the management of a caseload for their Skills Coaching Service. In 2008/2009 she worked for an international organisation delivering the Pathways to Work Condition Management Programme.

Alongside her vocational rehabilitation work Hazel has provided selection and assessment consultancy services and has acted as a Diversity Adviser to the Home Office.

This type of consultancy work has added value to her vocational rehabilitation skills when working with Human Resource professionals and in supporting job retention following an employee's injury or illness. She is also qualified in administering and assessing cognitive function tests.

Hazel has a BA (Hons) in Applied Psychology, an MSc in Occupational and Organisational Psychology and a Post Graduate Diploma in Careers Guidance: the latter qualification has proved to be extremely valuable in assessing and supporting individuals making career choices following accident and subsequent disability.



Hazel is a Member of the British Psychological Society (BPS) Division of Occupational Psychology, a member of the Special Group in Coaching Psychology; she is a Registered Psychologist with the Health Professions Council (HPC), and a member of the Vocational Rehabilitation Association (VRA).



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