

Joanna Fidler, BA (Hons) Dip SW

Joanna Fidler qualified as a Social Worker in 2001 at Northampton University with a Diploma in Social Work; and a BA (Hons) in 2002. She is registered with the GSCC, is a member of BISWG (Brain Injury Social Work Group) and is also a holder of Post Qualification awards for Social Workers levels 1 - 4.

Since qualification in 2001 she has gained extensive experience working as a member of multi-disciplinary teams within a range of settings including statutory services and the private sector.

Joanna has worked with adults, older people, children and young adults including those mental health issues, developmental disorders, acquired brain injury and learning disability including those who are with challenging behaviour.

Much of this experience has been as a Senior Social Worker dealing with adults with complex needs detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 and those moving to live in the community.

Upon qualifying, Joanna joined a community mental health team for older people where she built on existing skills around crisis intervention, risk assessment and the implementation and reviewing of care plans.

In 2003 she joined the specialist unit for young people with mental illness and developmental disorders at St Andrews Healthcare Northampton; in 2005 she became a Senior Social Work practitioner and continued to build her experience working across a range of clinical areas with adults with learning disabilities and those with severe and enduring mental illness and forensic histories.

Her role has involved ensuring the legal and statutory requirements of each client were met whilst working within the legislative framework of the Mental Health Act 1983, Children Act 1989 and Mental Capacity Act 2005. She also undertook the preparation and writing of statutory reports and the maintenance of accurate and up-to date records. A key part of her role has related to the safeguarding vulnerable adults and children and often incorporated the role of appropriate adult under PACE 1984 which led to her taking the lead in the development and implementation of an assessment tool for family and child visitors.

Whilst working at St Andrew's Healthcare she continued to develop skills in care planning, risk assessment and discharge planning which involved liaising with funding authorities and other professionals in the public and private sector.

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Her role at St Andrew's Healthcare also involved the sourcing of suitable accommodation to enable individuals to continue with their rehabilitation and to re-integrate into the community and live as independently as possible, although on occasions this required the involvement of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and the continuing use of the Mental Health Act 1983.

After becoming an independent Social Worker in 2007, Joanna has continued to build on her experience in Care/Case Management, crisis intervention, assessments, and the implementation and reviewing of individual care plans. These have related to adults with mental health and learning difficulties and families and young people.

In addition to the main components of her role as a Social Worker Joanna has acted as a practice teacher and as a supervisor for junior team members. She also continues to undertake regular training by attending a range of study days and conferences. Courses have included The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (train the trainer and decision making), G-Map - working with young people with learning disabilities who have sexually harmed, protection of vulnerable adults and Safeguarding Children.

More recently Joanna has attended courses and seminars linked to developing her role as a Case Manager and have included NAPPI (Non Abusive Psychological & Physical Intervention), BIRT – expected outcomes of rehabilitation, The Role of the Case Manager in Litigation and Rehabilitation.

Joanna joined the team at Bush & Company in 2008 undertaking case management of adults and children following catastrophic injury. Since starting at Bush & Company, Joanna has been able to apply previously gained knowledge and skills to the field of acquired brain injury. As a result she has furthered her experience of developing community based rehabilitation, care and support packages on privately funded, Statutory and a joint funded basis.

She undertakes work on a single instruction basis as well as on a joint basis via the Code of Rehabilitation Best Practice.