

## 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 Social Work in 2002. She is registered with the GSCC and is a member of BASW. She is also a holder of Post Qualification award for Social Workers levels 1 - 4.

Since qualification in 2001 she has gained extensive experience working as a member of multi-disciplinary teams within Social Services, Mental health Services and also a private organization where she has worked with varying client groups such as young people and their families, adults and older people who have a range of difficulties. This has included mental illness, learning difficulties, offending behaviour/forensic histories, acquired brain injuries, substance and alcohol misuse, relative poverty and social exclusion, housing issues and exclusion from education. She has a particular interest in working with adults and young people with learning difficulties and offending behaviours.

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 which included 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 of children and vulnerable adults 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 child visitors.

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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. It 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 Looked after Children, Children in need and their families and adults with learning difficulties.

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), Role of the Social Supervisor, G-Map - working with young people with learning disabilities who have sexually harmed, Lucy Faithful Adult Sex

Offenders Awareness, protection of vulnerable adults and Solution Focused Therapy.

Joanna joined the team at Bush & Company in 2008 undertaking case management of children and adults following catastrophic injury.