

Linda Morris, Occupational Therapist

Linda Morris, Dip COT, SROT, is an Occupational Therapist, having qualified in 1979 with the Diploma of the College of Occupational Therapists. She is a member of the British Association of Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapists in Independent Practice and the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists. Linda is registered with the Health Professions Council

As a newly qualified therapist, Linda Morris spent two years in the NHS in Liverpool, gaining experience in general medicine, orthopaedics, general surgery, rheumatology, elderly care and psychiatry, followed by a spell of agency work at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton.

In 1982, Linda Morris moved to Canada, to work as sole charge Occupational Therapist at West Coast General Hospital in Port Alberni on Vancouver Island, where she carried out the full range of in-patient and community Occupational Therapy in all specialities. She also achieved accreditation by the Canadian Arthritis Society, which leads best practice in arthritis care. This work afforded her some unique experience with the native Indian community.

In 1985, Linda Morris returned to the UK to take up a Senior OT post at Russell's Hall Hospital specialising in neurology. The following year she moved to a post as Senior OT in Neurosciences at Middlesbrough General Hospital.

Her work there included stroke and head injury rehabilitation, using therapeutic activity within treatment principles such as Bobath and Rood, as well as community pre-discharge home visits, family support, out-patient treatment and multi-agency liaison.

Other experience covered neurological disorders such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease and a wide range of neurological disorders, many degenerative in nature. Intervention centred on equipment provision, house adaptations and palliative care. She was promoted to Head of Department in Neurosciences, where she was responsible for running a department of 17 staff, student training and business planning. To further develop her skills in her new post, she completed a course in departmental management.

From 1991 until 2005 Linda Morris held a post with the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign, (a national disability charity), as one of a nationwide network of Family Care Officers. In this role she developed in-depth expertise in the management of neuromuscular disorders such as dystrophies, atrophies and other hereditary muscle wasting conditions.

As a family care officer she had a database of over 700 affected families for whom she was available for advice and support, regarding the practicalities of living with muscle disease. She acted as an advocate for her clients, liaising with other agencies in order to secure the best possible care and services, liaising with medical staff, other NHS staff, social services, education, employers, job centres and the benefits agency. She was continually involved in recommending a wide range of disability equipment and in planning architectural modifications to clients' homes. The role also involved education of other professionals regarding best practice in neuromuscular conditions.

Linda Morris' special area of expertise is neurological and neurosurgical conditions and she has maintained a special interest in the psychological aspects and effects of physical disability, issues of loss and bereavement.

Linda Morris has continued her private work since 1988 and has provided expert witness reports, case management, individual treatment, insurance reports and care home inspection.

Expert witness work has been with clients with head injury, whiplash, orthopaedic and multiple trauma, hand injuries, nerve injury and spinal injury. Case management experience is with individuals with head injury, spinal injury, stroke and congenital brain damage. Individual treatment has been with people with strokes, and elderly people with multiple disabilities.