

Natasha Lockyer, Occupational Therapist

Natasha Lockyer qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 1999, following the completion of a BSc (Hons) in Occupational Therapy at Brunel University. She is a member of the British Association of Occupational Therapists – including their Specialist Section Neurological Practice – and is registered with the Health Professions Council.

Natasha has specialised in the field of neurorehabilitation since 2004. Through her 12 years post graduate experience, she has gained extensive experience in carrying out rehabilitation and care needs assessments with clients with neurological conditions. She is skilled in writing and implementing care and support plans for people with complex physical, cognitive and behavioural needs. She has also gained extensive experience in negotiating, implementing and evaluating goal directed, client focused rehabilitation programmes.

Natasha's first post graduate role gave her experience in the fields of acute care of the elderly and acute mental health. Natasha then moved to New Zealand and joined the Burwood Spinal Unit in 2001, one of only two specialist units in the country. There she worked with people who had spinal cord

injuries caused by accident, illness or congenital abnormality. Here, Natasha wrote accurate, detailed and specialist reports for New Zealand Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) to inform decisions regarding the funding of major adaptations, specialist equipment and packages of care. This role ignited her commitment to working with people who have sustained catastrophic injuries.

Upon her return to the UK, Natasha worked in a variety of positions across acute hospital and community trusts. She worked with adults with neurological or orthopaedic conditions in multi-disciplinary teams and has held senior roles within the NHS since 2003. In 2004, Natasha gained a senior occupational therapy position with the Regional Neurological Rehabilitation Unit's Outreach Team based at the Homerton University Hospital. This multi-disciplinary team is operated through a public-private partnership with Clinovia Ltd.

The team offers a range of services, including multi-disciplinary assessment reports and case management. Natasha managed a caseload of clients with complex neurological impairments resulting from an acquired brain injury. She completed rehabilitation needs

assessments and detailed reports at the request of solicitors and case managers to assist with decision making in medical legal cases. She developed goal focused, highly individualised intervention plans with clients and their families / carers and carried out specialist occupational therapy assessment and rehabilitation.

Before joining the Blackheath Brain Injury Rehabilitation Centre and Neurodisability Service in 2007, Natasha was the lead therapist of an intermediate care unit in East London. At Blackheath, she provided specialist occupational therapy assessment and rehabilitation across two units: a secure unit for people presenting with cognitive difficulties and challenging behaviour, and a neurodisability unit for people with complex needs, including total dependency and low states of arousal.

From 2008 until 2011, Natasha worked as the Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist within a multi-disciplinary community neurological rehabilitation team. She provided case management and specialist occupational therapy assessment and intervention to a complex caseload of adults with acute and progressive neurological conditions.

Her role included completing rehabilitation and care needs assessments at the request of the local NHS commissioners and the local authority. This involved writing detailed reports to assist decision making regarding proposed courses of treatment or care. She liaised extensively with other agencies – including work places, voluntary organisations, and other health and social care teams – to promote and maximise her clients' successful (re-) engagement in the community and maximise their quality of life. Natasha joined Bush & Co in early 2011 and in September 2011 commenced her MSc in Neurorehabilitation at Brunel University.