

## Shirley Kearns, Occupational Therapist

Shirley Kearns, DIP COT, DIP COUNS, is an experienced Occupational Therapist, registered with the Health Professions Council. She is a member of the British Association of Occupational Therapists, and their Independent Practitioner, Paediatric and Housing Specialist Sections. Shirley has worked in the NHS, Social Services and the Independent Sector gaining extensive experience of working with children and adults with complex disabilities. She has also worked for several Charities including, Scottish Council for Spastics, (known as Capability Scotland since 1996) ASBAH now SHINE (Specialist Adviser Occupational Therapy) and Motability as well as undertaking work for the pension service of GKN.

Since beginning her medico legal work Shirley has participated in training days, workshops and conferences, undertaken Bond Solon training and gained experience as an expert witness in court.

In her early career Shirley worked for the NHS in Nottingham, Edinburgh and Yorkshire. Shortly before she took an OT career break to concentrate on family she assisted in the establishment of a Paediatric Service in Barnsley. During the period in which her children were young she undertook part-time work as a visiting social worker for the Family Fund and a variety of volunteer work.

In 1990, Shirley returned to work as a Paediatric Occupational Therapist at a Child Development Centre, working with pre-school children to adolescents in both the CDC and local schools. This work included assessment, treatment and recommendation of specialised equipment, wheelchairs provision and use, self-help skill/daily management, and the adaptation of houses and schools.

Shirley has also undertaken research into Assessment of Juvenile Arthritis and presented her findings at conferences in the UK and at WFOT in Montreal [1998]. She has experience of presentations to client groups and fellow professionals and is an experienced workshop leader.

**Registered Office**

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In 1997 she gained her postgraduate Diploma as a counsellor and has worked as a volunteer counsellor and trustee for Wakefield Well Women's Centre.

As a Social Services Occupational Therapist, her work involved the assessment of adults and children with a variety of disabilities within their home environment; this included the recommendation for specialised equipment and adaptation to property according to need and in line with local criteria. It involved moving and handling and liaising with other statutory organisations and departments in health, the local authority and education as well as voluntary organisations, to benefit both carers and clients with a variety of disabilities, including ADHD and Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Amputation, Brain Injury, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus MND, Duchene Muscular Dystrophy, Spinal Injury, Arthritis, Osteoporosis, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease.