

Sue Hanisch, Dip COT, SROT, MHGI, ETSI

Sue Hanisch graduated from Salford in 1979 and went straight into Paediatric work, where she was the first OT to set up a community paediatric service in Blackburn and the Ribble Valley in Lancashire. Based in a Special School and seeing children at a child psychiatry unit in Darwen, as well as at home, it was a busy service. All sorts of children were referred to the service, with every possible condition. Sue Hanisch's work meant being involved in assessment, splinting, issuing equipment, devising programmes, educating and supervision of treatment programmes as well as liaising with Social Services, education and running the toy library in 5 different locations. She was quick to become involved with Clinical Supervision, educating student nurses as well as students from OT and PT schools, as well as junior staff.

Several years of living abroad then followed. Being married to a German working in the Petro-chemical industry, Sue Hanisch lived and worked in Algeria, Greece, Jordan, Germany, Belgium, Israel, The Netherlands etc. She enjoyed adapting to the different cultures and lifestyles and fell in with the local traditions and where time allowed also learned the native languages. She is fluent in both Dutch and German.

In February 1991, at a time when Sue Hanisch was preparing to go and live in South Africa, she was involved in a bombing in London, which caused her severe injuries both physically and psychologically. The following three years were spent in intensive rehabilitation and repeated surgery, including a below knee amputation, until at last in 1994 she decided to make an attempt to return to work, where she worked on a two-year Stroke Audit throughout Cumbria which was a combined project between Health and Social Services.

Having returned to the workforce in 1994 and having had so much experience of being incapacitated herself, and being on the receiving end of therapy services for so long, Sue Hanisch then undertook Medico-legal work for Kirkpatrick Evans, where she worked as an Expert Witness and Case Manager in Paediatrics, for both Plaintiffs and Defendants alike. Her work involved locating, recruiting and maintaining all sorts of people in order to carry out care packages in a very new area of work.

Much time was spent in educating carers on specific programmes and implementing timetables both at home and in school. Programmes were set up and much advice and support given to clients and their family members as well as carers.

The most challenging part of this work was at the interface of what was provided as statutory provision and what was not. Representation and advocacy on behalf of the client or relative remain of optimum importance in Sue Hanisch's work. Much of Sue Hanisch's private work was done in conjunction with working for the NHS, but she realised that sooner or later in order for her to fulfil her desire to work most effectively with traumatised individuals, she would probably have to work exclusively within the private sector. For this reason she resigned from the NHS in 2002 to pursue a different career path.

In 2002 Sue Hanisch completed a Diploma in the Human Givens Approach to psychotherapeutic counselling. This is a way of helping people understand their basic emotional needs in order for them to make small changes in order to get their lives back in balance. This approach is particularly effective with people experiencing PTSD, depression, addictions, anxiety etc. Sue Hanisch finds it of invaluable benefit in its application to the whole range of patients she now sees, whether in childcare, whether in Vocational Rehab, whether returning military or victims of attack, terrorism etc.

For the past several years Sue Hanisch has had her own private practice in which she does a wide variety of work, mainly involving Vocational rehabilitation and Human Givens Counselling. She works with clients for pain management and trauma

and has had some remarkable results with clients who have had chronic symptoms for many years. She lectures at Liverpool University, where she speaks on Disability Studies. She has been involved with setting up Human Givens Training in Australia and since 2005 has set up charity projects to export wheelchairs/equipment to the Gambia and Tanzania. She has her private pilot's licence and works hard in promoting Flying Scholarships for the Disabled. Sue Hanisch has received several national awards, such as Woman of the Year for Courage 2002. Voluntary work in Ramallah in the West Bank in a children's rehab centre, as well as work with street children around the world in places such as Tel Aviv, Israel or Arusha in Tanzania keep Sue Hanisch's OT skills of "survive and thrive" well honed, especially in countries of poverty and deprivation where every adaptation is considered.

Sue Hanisch has an International client group and receives regular referrals from overseas. She also undertakes work for the British Legion, whether for recently returning servicemen/women, or for long standing difficulties eg within the UK Falkland veterans, or in Australia, Vietnam War Veterans. Sue Hanisch is a member of the Legacy Project in Warrington, which was set up to support victims and family members affected by the Northern Ireland Conflicts on the mainland.



She also offers advice to NHS training groups on the most effective interventions with people affected by violent conflict.

Sue Hanisch is an Occupational Therapist and Human Givens Practitioner. She is a member of the British Association of Occupational Therapy, the Health Professions Council, as well as a member of the European Therapy Studies Institute, the Human Givens Institute and is a graduate in Thought Field Therapy and Emotional Freedom Technique. Sue Hanisch, in addition to paediatric work, undertakes assessments and prepares reports for clients who have a variety of orthopaedic conditions, amputations, spinal injuries and visual impairment.



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