

Virginia Bowley, RGN, RSCN, Cert CBT

Virginia is a Registered General Nurse and a Registered Sick Children's Nurse with over 20 years of post qualification experience. She trained at St Mary's Hospital, London for her general nurse training where she practised before going to Great Ormond Street London to undergo her sick children's nurse training. She then moved to Eastbourne General Hospital where she practised children's nursing. She then moved to Cambridgeshire where she gained experience by nursing adult and paediatric patients in the community, respite and hospital settings. Virginia was involved in delivering a training programme for student nurses and developed an interest in the nursing care for both diabetic and asthmatic patients.

In the community, Virginia nursed chronically sick children in their homes and in respite care and it was here that she began to gain an interest in studying counselling to benefit all areas of her work. Virginia then formally started her counselling training and this culminated in her obtaining a diploma in integrative counselling in 2001. She also recently qualified as a cognitive behavioural therapist.

This qualification has allowed Virginia to work both in private practice and with young adults and more mature clients.

Virginia has worked in a college of further education as a student counsellor, where the client group was from a wide variety of backgrounds. Virginia became familiar with the different vocational routes of training that the students were able to access.

Virginia completed the Cruse bereavement training for adults in 2000, and she is in the process of training to counsel young people and children who have been bereaved. She works voluntarily for the agency as a counsellor. She completed a course in post-traumatic stress disorder in 2000.

In 2001 Virginia left the NHS and took up the position of Nurse Adviser to a charity called Sense, who cares for adults who are both deaf and blind, and often have challenging behaviour. Here she took responsibility for the medical matters that all new staff have to attend on their induction programme. Virginia attended appropriate training as part of her employment, and this included management of service users with challenging behaviour. She was responsible for writing all nursing care policy documents to develop the care regime for the service users, and provided in house training for the care assistants. She also gave hands on care to monitor the service user's health and well-being.

Virginia completed an in house sign language course and accompanied a group of service users on holiday.

She was responsible for providing ongoing medical updates for all the care staff in the region.

From 2003 - 2006 Virginia worked as a Care Expert/Case Manager and met with clients who had suffered catastrophic injuries and carried out assessments of their past present and future nursing care requirements. She was involved in the preparation and writing of approximately 100 medico-legal reports, written for the Claimant, Defendant and on a joint basis. She attended case conferences, joint discussions and has also been to Court to give evidence as an Expert. She has undertaken training in relation to her work as an expert witness including Courtroom skills and understanding the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

In 2006 Virginia started working as a Case Manager for Complete Care Holdings. She worked with clients who suffered spinal injuries, amputation, brachial plexus lesion, visual impairment, medical negligence, acquired brain injury, and children with cerebral palsy. Virginia has worked closely with Statutory Services throughout the UK to ensure statutory obligations are being met in order that clients are able to reach their rehabilitation potential.

Where statutory provision is unable to meet a client's needs, she has initiated private provision of care and services. She has reviewed PCT funded care packages and provided an independent opinion for PCTs as to the care required to meet their client's needs.

Since October 2003 Virginia has acted as an independent assessor under the Code of Best Practice on Rehabilitation, Early Intervention and Medical Treatment in Personal Injury Claims, assessments being made outside the litigation process. In June 2009 Virginia joined Bush & Company to work as a Case Manager.

Virginia is a registered member of the Nursing and Midwifery Council, and the British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists, and she works to the ethical frameworks set within. She is also a member of CMSUK and BABICM. She has maintained her Continuing Professional Development in all areas of her work life and is committed to providing a holistic approach to her work and the clients in her care.

Following the completion of a course Virginia was awarded a Certificate in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy in December 2008.