

Sue Hanisch

Occupational Therapist

HCPC OT09609

Adults and Paediatrics

Disability/Injury/Special Interest:

Sue is able to complete quantum reports on a wide range of injury types including amputation; brain injury; chronic pain; orthopaedic; stroke; visual impairment/sensory loss; post-traumatic stress; psychological effects and depression as a consequence of injury and epigenetic trauma.

Report Type:

Quantum – Care/Case Management; Care/Occupational Health; Loss of Service; Occupational Therapy

Location:

Based in Kendal, Northern England

Will travel to Southern England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and abroad

Additional Languages:

German and Dutch

Experience:

Sue graduated as an Occupational Therapist from Salford in 1979 and went straight into paediatric work. She was the first Occupational Therapist to set up a Community Paediatric Service in and around Blackburn and the Ribble Valley in North West England. She initially worked with over 200 children who had many physical disabilities both of congenital and acquired origin. Many children had developed behaviours, which indicated that their emotional needs were unmet. It was a busy service and the children and young adults were from 0 to 19 years old and were from many different cultures, languages and faiths. Sue's work also involved the introduction of a toy library in five different locations throughout East Lancashire.

All Sue's interventions depended on the quality of relationship built with the child and family and she used daily activities to promote learning whilst creating a sense of fun to minimise any sense of pain and difficulty. She liaised with Social Services for adaptations at home and soon became involved with clinical supervision, educating Student Nurses as well as students from Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy schools, as well as junior staff.

Several years of living and working abroad then followed including Iraq, Algeria, Greece, Jordan, Norway, Germany, Belgium, Israel and The Netherlands. She is fluent in both German and Dutch.

In February 1991, at a time when Sue was preparing to move to 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 to one lower limb and reconstructive surgery to the other. At the conclusion of her third year of surgery she decided, in 1994, to make an attempt to return to work and secured a position working on a two-year Stroke Audit throughout Cumbria; 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 many years, Sue then began to undertake medico-legal work for Kirkpatrick Evans from 1996 onwards. She subsequently worked as an Expert Witness and Case Manager in Paediatrics, for both claimants and defendants. Representation and advocacy on behalf of the client and family remain of paramount importance in her work.

Much of Sue'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 have

to work exclusively within the private sector. For this reason she resigned from the NHS in 2002 to pursue a different career path and since that time she has worked in the independent sector.

In 2002 Sue completed a Diploma in the Human Givens Approach to Psychotherapeutic Counselling. A method, which addresses the way in which the brain works and helps people understand their basic emotional needs and how these are often unmet at times of loss, injury and disability. This approach is particularly effective for people experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, addictions, anxiety and impairment. Sue finds it of invaluable benefit in its application to the wide range of patients she now sees, whether in childcare, vocational rehabilitation, returning military or victims of attack and terrorism. She also applies her knowledge when working overseas in Bosnia and the West Bank.

For the past several years, Sue has had her own private practice in which she does a wide variety of work including 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 suffered from chronic symptoms over many years. She lectures at Liverpool University, where she teaches students in Disability Studies. She has been involved with setting up Human Givens Training in Australia and Bosnia and since 2005 she has set up charity projects to export wheelchairs/equipment to the Gambia, Tanzania and Latvia.

Sue has gained her private pilot's licence and works with great enthusiasm when promoting Flying Scholarships for Disabled people. She has received several national awards including Woman of the Year for Courage in 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 Israel and Tanzania; keeping Sue's Occupational Therapy skills of "survive and thrive" well honed, especially in countries of poverty and deprivation where every adaptation to conditions and adversity is necessary.

Sue has an International Client Group and undertakes work for the British Legion, Combat Stress, Red Poppy and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Resolution; recently returning servicemen/women as well as with veterans from older conflicts, such as Falkland veterans, or with Australia Vietnam War Veterans. Sue is a member of the Legacy Project in Warrington, which was set up to support victims and family members affected by "the troubles" in Northern Ireland on the mainland.

Sue offers advice to NHS training groups on the most effective interventions for people affected by violent conflict. She provides expert training to First Responders from the "Blue-light" services in the treatment of trauma. She is a member of the Sustainable Peace project in which she works with ex-paramilitaries in Northern Ireland and speaks on regular occasions on behalf of the Forgiveness Project. She is a regular visitor to Belfast and Derry where she participates in cross-cultural events of healing and reconciliation. In 2014 she was invited to become involved in the "Freedom Our Responsibility" initiative in South Africa and in recent years has contributed to several publications on the subject of the physical and psychological effects of trauma on the body.

Professional Qualification and Education:

- (Year 2002) Diploma in Human Givens Counselling
- (Year 1988) Private pilot licence
- (Year 1988) Diploma in Person Centred Counselling
- Certificate in Clinical Supervision
- University of Salford (Year 1976 – 1979) Diploma in Occupational Therapy

Membership and Affiliations:

- Member of College of Occupational Therapists
- Registered with the Health and Care Professions Council
- Member of the Human Givens Institute
- Member of the European Therapy Studies Institute
- Member of the Women's Pilots' Association
- Member of the Forgiveness Project
- Member of the Sustainable Peace Project

Book Chapters:

- Chapter in "Bullets, bombs and cups of tea" by Ken Wharton, 2012

- The Effects of Trauma on the Body Following Violent Attack in Disaster and Development: An Occupational Perspective. Published 2015. Elsevier Publications.
- Chapter in "To Tell You the Truth" A lived perspective of the Troubles, by Eamonn Baker. Published 2015.