

CURRICULUM VITAE



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PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

BSc Occupational Therapy (Hons)
Glasgow Caledonian University 2004/2005

Postgraduate Certificate in Brain Injury Rehabilitation
Queen Margaret University 2011

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES:

HCPC (Health and Care Professions Council)
BAOT (British Association of Occupational Therapists)

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James qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 2004. He began his career working as an Occupational Therapist for Momentum whilst completing his final year of university. As a vocational rehabilitation service for people who had sustained brain injury, Momentum provided invaluable experience in assessing people's difficulties following a brain injury, identifying skills and strengths that would contribute to a successful return to work and providing relevant interventions that would facilitate the goal of returning to employment. Further duties within this role included planning and delivering group sessions to promote work readiness, arranging relevant work placements to develop skills and liaising with employers to support integration into the workplace. Within this role he also became proficient in the completion of outcome measures and reports that demonstrate value for money and best outcome for the person.

In 2006, James broadened his experience in brain injury by moving to the Community Treatment Centre for Brain injury in Glasgow. James eventually worked full time for this service, the main aim of which was to provide rehabilitation for people who have experienced a brain injury to become independent at home and in their community. This includes assisting people to establish or re-establish relationships with family and friends and to engage in meaningful and productive activity in home, education or work settings. Carers and families were encouraged to take an active role in the person's rehabilitation programme. Working within this interdisciplinary team involved undertaking a holistic assessment of a client's skills and abilities and developing person centred goals to guide therapeutic intervention. Goals could focus on improving ability for daily living skills, by means of cognitive, psychological and vocational rehabilitation. Experience within the service allowed James to develop his skills in assessment, goal setting and therapeutic interventions to promote best

outcome for the person. He also consolidated his understanding of the complexities of brain injury from a medical and social point of view.

In 2009, James then progressed into the local authority setting, undertaking the role of Specialist Occupational Therapist for Brain Injury in South Lanarkshire Council. As the sole professional in this service, James has had to work autonomously and undertake a range of duties to support a person to achieve their goals. Such duties include, completing the organisational assessment tool, devising and working to a rehabilitation plan and regular review of progress. At times, undertaking the role as Case Manager, James would identify areas of need and signpost the person to other relevant agencies, working collaboratively where relevant. This has helped James to build a network of professionals, contacts and local knowledge that benefit that client and, ultimately, improve the service they receive.

James also holds regular training sessions for council staff, raising awareness of brain injury and developing staff skills to increase their confidence in providing support to people.

More recently, James' role has extended to include involvement in the discharge planning process for people with complex physical and cognitive needs who are moving from an institutional setting into the community. This requires a comprehensive assessment of the person's needs and the development of a care plan which highlights the level of formal support that is needed.

James has now joined Tania Brown Ltd as a Case Manager. He is interested in using his experience of working as a professional in the field of brain injury to continue to support people to rebuild their lives following injury. James is passionate about using an enabling approach to give people the confidence to reassess their life goals



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following disability and helping them to focus on their strengths to achieve more independence and quality of life.