

CURRICULUM VITAE
GAIL RUSSELL
Occupational Therapist
BSc, MSc, PG CERT
Located in Anglesey

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PROFILE

Gail Russell graduated from the University of Liverpool in 1994; she is registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT). She has worked in a variety of healthcare settings in the NHS and has worked overseas; she has primarily worked with adults and children with complex disabilities and takes a holistic approach. Gail has also worked for several manufacturers of specialist equipment providing training to healthcare professionals and has delivered training on a voluntary basis in Asia.

Upon graduating, Gail worked as a basic grade OT at Lancaster Moor Hospital on the rehabilitation wards for people with neurological conditions and the elderly. Thereafter, Gail undertook a range of locum posts in a variety of settings covering orthopaedic, medical, surgical and rehabilitation wards. She was responsible for carrying out functional assessments, devising goal orientated treatment plans, facilitating safe discharge and prescription of equipment. She worked alongside physiotherapists, social workers and the nursing team. She also undertook a post within the intermediate care team and community rehabilitation team.

In 1998 she worked as a locum OT at Southend Wheelchair Service, and later Harold Wood DSC where she worked with adults and children and young people with a range of disabilities who presented with postural and mobility impairments who needed the provision of wheelchairs and suitable seating. Within these roles, she worked in a variety of settings including the community, schools, care homes and clinic. She was responsible for carrying out posture and mobility assessments. She adopted a goal focussed approach, enabling patients to function on a daily basis as a wheelchair user and to access their home and school/ work environment, community and transport.

Gail later undertook roles in New Zealand and The Cerebral Palsy Alliance (CP Alliance) in Sydney in the Assistive Technology Team working with adults and children and young people with complex disabilities.

She has worked in paediatric services with children and young people with physical disabilities and learning and behavioural difficulties. Within these roles, she carried out a range of assessments and devised and implemented goal orientated treatment programmes that complemented other interventions. Gail worked alongside other healthcare professionals and was responsible for identifying equipment at home and school. She worked with architects with regards to housing adaptations.

In 2007, Gail started to work on an independent basis. She initially took referrals through an agency for Motability and was responsible for assessing individuals for powered wheelchairs to be used in their vehicle on a drive-from basis. She started to take referrals from case managers to assess adults and children and young people with a range of disabilities with regard to their wheelchair, seating, and postural care requirements. She also used an interface pressure mapping (IPM) system to determine areas of loading and to assist with the prescription of suitable pressure redistribution cushions and seating.

In addition to her private work, Gail undertook a role as clinical manager at Stockport Wheelchair Service in 2007. She managed a team of 11 and had a budget of £900,000.00. She held a clinical caseload of patients with complex presentations and ran the special seating clinic. She worked closely with the Consultant in Neurorehabilitation to ensure timely and appropriate

assessments and provision of equipment for adults with neurological impairment. In addition, Gail developed a pathway for children under five years old, primarily with cerebral palsy to ensure a single, detailed assessment was carried out to ensure consistency of assessment, intervention and equipment provision. This involved working with the paediatric therapy team, focusing on function and participation and won an innovation award within the PCT. Within this role, Gail worked in a number of settings including clinic, patient homes, schools, care homes and rehabilitation units. She had a close relationship with the tissue viability services where joint assessments were often completed to ensure consistency of pressure care equipment and advice. Gail worked closely with wheelchair users to ensure they were able to function on a day-to-day basis from their wheelchair within their home, community and work/ school environment. She provided education to patients and their carers/ families about function, positioning, postural care, moving and handling, condition management and skin integrity.

In 2010, Gail started to work for Bush & Co Rehabilitation as an Expert Witness on a self-employed basis. She took instructions from Claimant and Defendant Solicitors and undertook a range of in-house trainings. Gail left the company in 2015 and became an associate OT at Fiona Johnson Ltd to continue her role as an Expert Witness; she

now also acts as a mentor within the company and sits on the clinical board. She also undertakes Expert Witness work on an independent basis.

Gail left the NHS in 2012 and thereafter, undertook a number of locum positions in learning disabilities, wheelchair and seating services and the community. She continues to work as an independent OT with adults and children with complex disabilities. She undertakes locum work in the adult community resource team (CRT) for Anglesey Council; she works alongside social workers and the healthcare team assessing adults with a range of physical, cognitive disabilities who may have psychological and emotional difficulties. She works with the MDT to determine care packages, provide care plans and make recommendations for moving and handling and equipment/ minor adaptations. Gail maintains her CPD by engaging in online and in-person training, ongoing study and reflection. She has undertaken a Post Graduate Certificate and master's degree and is currently undertaking the Facilitators Course in the WHO International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).