



Heather Roche

Occupational Therapist

Expert Witness



contact@amgconsultancyservices.com

01785 719557 (head office then option 3)

General Background

Heather qualified as an Occupational Therapist from West Midlands School of Occupational Therapy with a Diploma in 1990 and gaining the BSc (Hons) in Health Sciences in 1991. In 1994 Heather gained a certificate in Supervisory Management and a Diploma in Management in 1997 from the University of Leicester. In 2011 Heather gained an MA in Health Care Law and in 2012 an MSc in Advanced Occupational Therapy practice.

Heather has extensive clinical practice in both Paediatrics and Adult Care. Heather began working in paediatrics in a rotational post in 1991, this was a joint NHS and local authority post for children and young adults with learning difficulties. Thus, combining group work and equipment/adaptation provision into one post. Over her career Heather has continued to work and develop her skills in the field of Paediatrics in Social Service posts.

Heather has worked in both the NHS and Local Authority on a clinical level. Undertaking roles on the frontline of care in Accident and Emergency and working in the community to prevent admission to hospital on a rapid response team. Heather has had more traditional roles in medicine/surgery, renal, oncology, orthopaedics and rehabilitation, but also specialist roles in hands, spinal and neurology. Heather has worked on both acute stroke and stroke rehabilitation wards, and on community stroke teams. Heather has also worked on a Rehabilitation ward for brain injury, that covered major trauma for patients from the Midlands and Wales. Heather is adept at cognitive assessment and how this deficit can be managed in the community.

For Social Services Heather has worked in both traditional roles of assessing and recommending equipment and adaptations but also looking at moving and handling and evaluating packages of care for single handed care.

Heather has been a manager at a variety of levels, managing a range of different disciplines and size of organisation, being responsible for a small team to a hospital site. Heather gained experience and skills in leadership, organisation, budgeting, service delivery and strategy.

Heather was a lecturer at Salford University from 2002 - 2009, teaching on the undergraduate occupational therapy course, and also being a module leader, year manager and fieldwork supervisor supporting students on traditional and non-traditional placements. Heather specialised in teaching clinical skills such as Moving and Handling, clinical reasoning and decision making. Heather then worked part time for the University developing and teaching on the post graduate courses of Cancer Survivorship, module leader for Advanced Occupational Therapy and teaching on the Vocational Rehabilitation programme.

Heather has undertaken research into Discharge Planning and Whistleblowing. Heather is committed to continuing her professional development through a wide range of activities – such as clinical work, teaching and presenting at the COT conference.

Heather is a member of the BAOT, and has been a steward, treasurer and deputy convener.

Heather is an Occupational Therapist registered with the Health Professions Council and has worked as an Expert Witness from 2003 (20 years) and utilised her skills and experience in the clinical field to specialise in reports for both children and adults who have sustained severe and multiple injuries. Heather can provide opinion on Quantum to recommend specific occupation therapy treatment and/or prepare care/rehabilitation reports following alleged or proven clinical negligence or personal injury and Loss. Has attended the Bond Solon Certificated Legal Training Courses: "Excellence in Report Writing" and "Witness Familiarisation – Courtroom Skills Training"

Heather is a fully trained Case Manager, and able to cost all levels and types of care packages but prefers to continue in a clinical NHS role.