



## Dr Angela Birleson

Specialist Neurological Occupational Therapist

Darlington, Co Durham

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## PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- + Diploma of the College of Occupational Therapists
- + Post Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education
- + M.Sc. Health Psychology
- + Ph.D.
- + Clinical Fellowship, NHS Leadership Academy

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- + Health and Care Professions Council
- + British Association of Occupational Therapists
- + College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section, Neurological Practice
- + National AHP Clinical Expert Database – Neurology and neuro-rehabilitation
- + Education Lead, Brain Injury Forum, College of Occupational Therapists

Angela qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 1989 and is registered with the Health and Care Professions Council and the British Association of Occupational Therapists. Angela's career has mainly been in the field of neurosciences, in clinical practice, research and education. She has extensive experience in working with clients who have complex disabilities sustained through acquired brain injury, stroke and long-term neurological conditions.

Angela has a national reputation in the field of neurosciences and has worked on guidelines for the National Institute of Clinical Excellence and the College of Occupational Therapists and has been a senate member of the Clinical Reference Group for Specialised Rehabilitation, NHS England. She has secured research grants



from some of the leading neurosciences charities and publishes and presents regularly. Angela is a strong advocate for sharing and using best-evidence in occupational therapy neuro-sciences practice.

Angela has a particular interest in working with clients who have cognitive deficits following their brain injury or other neurological condition. Due to their cognitive, physical, emotional or behavioural difficulties, these clients may struggle to return to their previous work/education, family and social roles. Angela is particularly skilled in identifying 'hidden' deficits then planning and implementing rehabilitation programmes to remediate and compensate for these. She is highly accomplished in working with a client's family, providing support and education to enable the family to understand their relative's needs.

Angela has worked with a wide range of professionals, and has many years' experience of co-ordinating and leading multi-disciplinary teams in a cohesive and consistent approach to achieve the client's goals.

Angela is an active committee member for Headway Darlington and District.

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## CAREER PATHWAY

<b>Oct 2015 – Present</b>	Specialist Neurological Occupational Therapist, LAC Ltd.
<b>Jan 2015 – Oct 2015</b>	Director of Rehabilitation Services, JS Parker Ltd.
<b>Mar 2008 – Dec 2014</b>	Principal Clinician and Team Lead, Neurosciences, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
<b>2009 – 2011</b>	Mentor, Workforce Innovations Programme, Neurological Conditions (part-time secondment), NHS North-East
<b>Nov 2004 – Mar 2008</b>	Occupational Therapy Advanced Practitioner and Team Lead, Neurosciences, South Tees Hospitals Trust
<b>Nov 2002 – April 2005</b>	(Part-time) Allied Health Professions Research and Development Co-ordinator, South Tees Hospitals Trust
<b>Nov 2002 – Nov 2004</b>	(Part-time) Research Grant, Parkinson's Disease Society
<b>Jan 2001 – Nov 2002</b>	Research Fellow, Institute of Rehabilitation, Northumbria University
<b>Jan 1999 – Jan 2000</b>	Physical Disabilities Adviser, (part-time secondment), South Durham Trust
<b>Feb 1998 – May 1998</b>	Academic exchange to University of South Australia
<b>1996 - 1997</b>	Senior Occupational Therapist, Stroke Rehabilitation (part-time secondment), North Tees General Hospital
<b>1994 - Jan 2001</b>	Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, then Acting Course Leader, University of Teesside
<b>1991 - 1994</b>	Senior Occupational Therapist, Stroke and Neuro Rehabilitation, Bishop Auckland Hospital
<b>1990 - 1991</b>	Senior Occupational Therapist, Community EMI, Hull Mental Health Trust
<b>1989 - 1990</b>	Basic Grade Occupational Therapist, Rotation, Doncaster Royal Infirmary