

Professional Profile

Claire is a highly experienced Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) who has specialised in the field of neurology since 1992. She has worked with all levels of communication and swallowing difficulties (dysphagia), from the most severe to the more subtle that impact on social acceptability, confidence, relationships and quality of life.

Professional Qualification and Membership

- BSc. Hons Speech Sciences (1991) University College London
- Certified Member of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
- Member of the Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practise (ASLTIP)
- Registered with the Health and Care Professions Council
- Member of medico-legal Special Interest Group
- Member of International Special Interest Group in Facial Oral Tract Therapy
- Basic Course in Personal Construct Psychology, City Literary Institute, London (1996)
- Diploma in Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) for Health care (2009)
- ASLTIP training "Supporting Your Clients Through Legal Proceedings including how to be an Expert Witness (2002)
- Bond Solon Training in Excellence in Written Evidence and Courtroom skills (2013)

Experience & Employment History

Private –

Claire has been a private practitioner since 1998. She has experience of working within the medico-legal framework and was involved in a high profile and influential case that demonstrated the value of rehabilitation. She has extensive experience of complex cases, working in innovative ways to meet individual needs in an interdisciplinary model promoting a 24 hour therapeutic ethos.

1998-2003

- Established a SLT consultancy that provided assessment and rehabilitation service for clients in their own home, workplace and private hospitals in Surrey, Berkshire, Hampshire and London.
- Acting as expert witness and treating therapist in medico-legal framework

2005- current

- Providing assessment and rehabilitation services for clients in own home and workplace.
- Service level agreements to establish SLT service in two independent Rehabilitation Units (Arfon ABI Unit in Colwyn Bay and St Cyril's Rehabilitation Unit in Chester), and scope exisiting service for modernisation and develop interdisciplinary working (Transitional Rehabilitation Units – TRU). This involved implementation of interdisciplinary outcome measures and contribution to the formulations of complex physical and cognitive presentations, assessment and treatment of those in undetermined levels of consciousness, assessment of specialist seating and positioning for function and access to assistive technology including eye gaze and communication aids.

- Acting as expert witness and treating therapist in medico-legal cases.
- External Examiner for Manchester Metropolitan University Post Basic Dysphagia Course (now Manchester Post Basic Dysphagia Course) providing dysphagia training in paediatric, ALD and acquired neurology client groups
- Provision of locum SLT for NHS acute and community acquired adult neurology, mental health and ALD services (Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Aintree, Liverpool Community, Wirral and Mersey Care NHS Trusts).

NHS 2003 – 2013:

- Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust (Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board) Clinical Lead for Dysphagia and Nutritional Support covering all adult client groups and providing support for paediatric services. Participated in national research as one of four field test sites resulting in the Interprofessional Dysphagia Framework.

2001 - 2003:

- Royal Surrey County Hospital – Inpatient service

1998 - 2001:

- East Berkshire NHS Trust –
Clinical Facilitator for Neurology.

1992-1998 :

- Weybourne – Bournemouth Community NHS Trust (NW Surrey). - Inpatient neurological rehabilitation including ITU, young physically disabled rehabilitation unit, outpatient and community acquired neurological rehabilitation, palliative care in hospice and community, ENT and voice, outreach and day care services for those with physical disability.
- Weybourne Community NHS Trust (NW Surrey). – Providing service in school for profoundly deaf children (11-18 yrs), service for hearing impaired unit in primary mainstream school and for preschool children in community clinics.

Professional Interests

Claire has a particular interest in the context in which people function; the perceptions of the client and others around them, the person's muscle tone affecting physical posture, co-ordination and appearance (facial expression) and the particular environment (e.g. seating or demands of social situations). She makes use of varied therapeutic interventions to maximise the client's physical, cognitive and communication skills. These include instrumental assessment of dysphagia (videofluoroscopy and Fibre Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing – FEES), Facial Oral Tract Therapy- FOTT (based on Bobath concept of rehabilitation), Neuro-Linguistic Programming, development of communication environments using high and low tech communication aids, counselling skills and psychological approaches, and training others regarding risks, needs and strategies to enhance abilities.

Striving to enable clients to experience meaningful activity and make informed choices is at the centre of all intervention. Client participation, control and independence can be optimised by identifying the most reliable method of communication, providing information in an accessible way and teaching others, working with the client, to modify their own communication.

