



Karen Lovell

Physiotherapist Case Manager

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy (1st Class Honours)
- BLC Trained

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS

- HCPC

GEOGRAPHICAL COVER

- North West England
- Midlands

SNAP SHOT

Karen is a Physiotherapist with over 20 years' experience with children, young people and adults with neurological conditions including cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, and neuromuscular conditions. Her career includes working in a wide range of settings including residential, schools and clinics. She is passionate about child and family centred goal setting and using her creativity by working alongside families to ensure maximum inclusivity for children and young people with disabilities.

SPECIALIST AREAS

- Paediatrics
- Acquired brain injury
- Spinal cord injuries
- Complex orthopaedic injuries
- Amputations
- Multi-trauma
- MDT Working
- Safeguarding young people and children



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EXPERIENCE

Karen attended Leeds Metropolitan University in 2001 to study Physiotherapy. On completion of this degree Karen commenced her career as a Physiotherapist in Harrogate District Hospital. It was here that she gained a broad range of experience initially working in the field of adult physiotherapy including Respiratory/ICU care, orthopaedics both trauma and elective, musculoskeletal, amputees and neurology. The diversity of these clinical areas provided a sound clinical foundation for her career path.

Following this she began working within the paediatrics team based in the Child Development Centre. This involved a mixture of seeing children as inpatients, outpatients and in the community setting. It was during this time Karen had the opportunity to work alongside many other professionals undertaking joint working with children. She also gained a lot of experience attending discharge planning meetings and review meetings during this time. While Karen was in this role she began mentoring more junior members of staff including specific training and becoming a sign off for competences demonstrating safe practise. She enjoyed this aspect to her role as it allowed her to draw from all her previous experience. In this role she was involved in various Service Development projects some of which proved very beneficial for the service. One of these was the development of a pathway to help manage the follow up of babies and children on discharge from the Special Care Baby Unit and the Children's Ward

After this Karen spent some time working as a physiotherapist carrying out functional assessments on behalf of the DWP (Department of Work and Pensions) following accreditation as a Disability Analyst. This included undertaking face to face assessments for claimants with a wide range of physical and mental health conditions and provision of individuals in application for ESA (employment support allowance) and the provision of advisory reports to the DWP. It was during this role that she had the opportunity to optimise further her report writing skills in order to provide an accurate summary for the DWP. She quickly progressed to become Clinical Performance Lead which involved providing clinical feedback/audit and clinical support to team members to improve their performance. She thrived in this leadership role by empowering her team to improve their practice and strive for excellence. She was actively involved in the training and development of new members of staff. This involved shadowing them undertaking assessments and critiquing their reports prior to submission.

Following relocation to the Manchester area, Karen initially undertook a role with Manchester City Council. Her main duty in this role was to provide assessments of children and young people with physical disabilities requiring specialist equipment in their homes. This involved working alongside occupational therapists and other members of the multi-disciplinary team members to problem solve the best choice of equipment to best meet client needs. It was here that Karen had an exposure to financial and budgeting departments as she would have to clinically justify the purchase of such specialist equipment to 'Panel' . They considered the cost implication for purchase of equipment and often questioned if an alternative more cost effective choice could be considered. Having to liaise across various services and professionals involved with the service users required Karen to have strong clinical knowledge and to be able to justify and clinically reason to panel and families the reason for equipment provision choice particularly with the changing needs of the child as they grow. During this time, she was also involved supporting families in application for housing and major adaptations to their property having to submit a clinically robust justification to the 'Panel' members in order to seek approval this was a particularly rewarding part of the role.

Karen then made a move back to the clinical setting by securing a role in the NHS within The Children's and Young People Physiotherapy Service. Here she had a varied caseload including a mixture of clinical work at various locations for example clinics, schools and homes. Karen primarily worked with children with cerebral palsy or acquired brain injuries. Part of her work involved attending a variety of meetings for example discharge planning of a child from hospital having sustained an acquired brain injury, annual reviews, and Safeguarding meetings. This role allowed her to be involved with training more junior members of staff and delegation of physiotherapy programmes. Additionally it involved undertaking risk assessments for moving and handling and training and supervising other members of staff including education staff and families to use specialist equipment.

Currently Karen continues to practise her clinical skills working alongside children and young people some of whom have complex physical, cognitive and sensory processing difficulties. Due to the complexity of the clients that she sees, she remains adaptable whilst ensuring boundaries are maintained and has an inherent ability to 'think on her feet'.

Karen enjoys working collaboratively with a wide range of services in order to maximise the best possible outcome for the individual and their families. She is a natural 'people person' and has experience leading teams and empowering them to strive for excellence. She prides herself in 'going the extra mile' to achieve the best outcome.

Karen is now working as a case manager with children, young people and adults. In summary, Karen's diverse clinical background ensures that she can draw upon a number of both professional skills and personal qualities at any given time to ensure the best outcome for a client and their family. She is quick to adapt to challenging situations and where there is a change in order to maintain focus. Her empathetic nature ensures that client and families feel central to the whole process whilst having the ability to work collaboratively in order to ensure the best possible outcome for that individual.