

Suzanne Farris MSc, Dip COT

Suzanne is an occupational therapist who qualified in London in 1984. She has worked in a variety of clinical settings in the NHS, local authority and as an independent occupational therapist, as well as working at senior levels in both commissioning and providing health services, managing large budgets and service portfolios.

Suzanne has worked in mental health, neurology, care of the elderly, general medicine as well as with children, young adults and their families. She has worked with a wide range of conditions and age ranges, including cerebral palsy, learning disability, behavioural difficulties, pre-term babies, acute onset cerebral trauma due to injury or illness, oncology, limb deformity, and pervasive disorders. She also has experience of working with rare syndromes, sensory impairment and language disorders. During her career she has assisted in discharge planning for complex cases from specialist hospitals and contributed to the design of care packages.

Suzanne has experience of working with both children and adults in different clinical settings, using a wide range of assessments. Her approach is person and family centred and she is used to working with statutory and non statutory agencies. In her work with children she has extensive experience of liaising and working with main stream and special schools, advising staff in the management of children with additional needs and disability. Suzanne has acted in education tribunals and has prepared reports for inclusion in educational statements.

In her work with adults Suzanne has facilitated complex discharges from tertiary and acute hospitals, and has a wide knowledge of services available in health, social care and the voluntary sector. Most of Suzanne's work with adults has been community focused particularly for adults with neurological disorders or injuries. She has worked with families and independent advocates to assist in care planning, and to ensure the wishes of individuals, particularly vulnerable adults, are recognised within legal frameworks.

Suzanne has experience of working with adults and children from varied backgrounds and cultures, including children that are looked after, and with families where English is not their first language. As a case manager Suzanne has worked with both adults and children with complex needs. She has experience of recruiting care teams and their ongoing supervision, writing care plans and commissioning training.

Whilst working in North East London, Suzanne gained significant experience in management, including therapy, nursing, and medical services, and has offered clinical supervision to occupational therapists. This experience has given her highly developed skills in communication, leadership, negotiation, influencing and decision making. As part of this role she developed an in depth knowledge of health economies and how they interface with other agencies.

In 2002 Suzanne gained an MSc in Occupational Therapy and has presented papers at conferences. She is committed to professional development and ensures her skills and knowledge are up to date. For Ainscough Associates she carries out immediate needs assessments and acts as a case manager on complex children and adult cases. She is a member of various special interest groups related to her clinical and professional interests including membership of the Case Management Society UK.