

Nicola Jenner BSc DipCOT

Nicola has been a practising occupational therapist since 2003, working in different sectors including statutory services and charities, and as an independent practitioner. She started her career with the Local Authority, working in the community with adults who had complex needs, mainly with clients that had neurological conditions such as stroke, Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, and other complex conditions and disabilities. She gained experience of working with people in their own homes, carrying out comprehensive assessments and providing specialist equipment and advising on housing adaptations for disability.

In 2005 Nicola joined an independent charitable trust, which provides specialist services to clients with physical and sensory impairments. These services included Housing Occupational Therapy, Day Services, Sensory Support Services, Direct payments and Travel Concession Assessment team. She expanded her work and began to work with children as well as adults, providing housing needs assessments for those with a physical disability. She has worked with parents of newly diagnosed children, gaining extensive experience with complex paediatric conditions including genetic, chromosomal disabilities, spinal injury (including tetraplegia), global development delay and epilepsy.

As well as providing recommendations for home adaptations and supportive equipment, she gave advice on new build properties that were required to be of wheelchair specification. Nicola gained experience working with people with amputations, Huntington's, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, autism, muscular dystrophy and acquired brain injury (ABI). She worked closely with the client, family, and other key professionals to achieve their goals.

In this role she also managed and developed services. Her responsibilities included providing supervision to approximately twenty staff of different services, and supporting the management board. This included setting up a service to provide impartial advice to those seeking privately funded disability equipment, restructuring Day Services, and improving the client activities as well as ensuring resources were maximised. She worked with local disability support groups to ensure that their viewpoint was included in any developments. Nicola worked closely with clients who attended the Day Service which included those with ABI, providing her with the experience and understanding of working with the specific needs of ABI clients including the range of cognitive, emotional, and behavioural impairments.

Nicola became a full time independent practitioner in 2008, continuing her work with the charitable trust and also gaining contracts with various local authorities, housing associations, contractors, and case management organisations to provide detailed Occupational Therapy reports for adults and children. She has provided recommendations for housing and equipment needs as well as care requirements, and moving and handling needs. She is experienced in carrying out detailed risk assessments.

Nicola is very self-motivated and highly organised, developing effective relationships with clients and professionals alike to ensure plans and client goals are achieved. She has experience of working with professionals across a range of other services including, social services, the NHS, Education, and the voluntary sector, in order to help achieve effective outcomes for clients. For Ainscough Associates she carries out Immediate Needs Assessments and acts as a case manager on complex and catastrophic cases. Nicola is a member of the British Association of Occupational Therapists, HCPC registered, and is a member of the Case Management Society of the UK.