Alexandra Henson

Expert Witness

London



Professional Experience

Alex is a senior speech & language therapist with two decades of experience, including community, acute and inpatient neurorehabilitation roles. Throughout her career, she has specialised in working with clients with acquired neurological diagnoses including working with low awareness states and complex behavioural needs. Alex has a special interest in quality of life and working with families of people with acquired neurological impairments. She spoke at the launch of the cross-party strategy for an Acquired Brain Injury bill in Westminster in 2022.

Alex is independently competent using videofluoroscopy and fibre-optic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing and a complete range of standardised communication assessments and interventions. She has extensive experience delivering training and education, including contributing to clinical training and assessment at Canterbury & Christ Church University, University College London and City University London. Alex also provides independent clinical work, and expert clinical supervision for speech and language therapy colleagues.

Alex has been an expert witness since 2015, utilising her clinical expertise to identify and cost speech therapy & equipment requirements for adults with neurological diagnoses and produce clear and accurate reports for the Court. She has an even balance of work with Claimant and Defendant teams, and is fully trained in Civil Procedure Rules, including relevant revisions as they arise. She maintains her CPD via regular training and clinical supervision.

Specialisms

- Speech & Language Therapy
- Brain Injury
- Neurological Conditions
- Challenging Behaviour
- Unresponsive Wakefulness Syndrome
- Cognitive Communication Difficulty
- Aphasia

Qualifications

- BA(hons) English Language & Literature
- Postgraduate Diploma Speech and Language Therapy
- MSc Speech & Language Therapy

Career History

Speech and Language Therapy Joint Professional Lead Homerton Hospital

2018 - Current

- Professional Lead for Adult Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) rehabilitation teams, Homerton Healthcare NHS Trust
- SLT Lead on Regional Neurological Rehabilitation Unit (RNRU) including highly specialist clinical inpatient work and team leadership
- Fibreoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) assessor

Speech and Language Therapist Independent

2011 - Current

- Working with people with a range of neurological communication impairments
- Providing goal-based person oriented rehabilitation alongside medico-legal teams, statutory and independently



Career History Continued

Multidisciplinary Team Lead Central London Community Health NHS Trust

2016 - 2018

- Multidisciplinary Team Lead, Hammersmith and Fulham Community Neurorehabilitation team
- Clinical Lead for innovative new service providing intensive community neuororehab virtual beds across three boroughs
- Clinical caseload of individuals with chronic communication and swallowing changes resulting from neurological injuries and conditions in the community

Lead Speech & Language Therapist Blackheath Brain Injury Rehabilitation Centre

2011 - 2016

- Led the Speech & Language Therapy team within this tertiary specialist service rehabilitating individuals with severe and complex brain injury and psychiatric need
- Conducted research into the effect of communication disability on accessing legal rights for those under the Mental Health Act and presented findings at a national level

Senior Specialist Speech Therapist Blackheath Brain Injury Rehabilitation Centre

2010 - 2011

 Supported the rehabilitation of adult clients with severe acquired brain injuries involving complex physical, communication and behavioural difficulties.

Senior Specialist Speech & Language Therapist Royal Hospital for Neurodisability

2004 - 2010

- Assessed and treated people with severe and complex neurological conditions in numerous specialist units in this national specialist hospital
- Included working with behavioural difficulties; specialist transitional neurorehabilitation; unresponsive wakefulness syndrome; long-term rehabilitation and care for neurological conditions such as Huntingdon's disease, multiple sclerosis; specialist role within Compass Assistive Technology Team, developing bespoke solutions for patient's communication, mobility and environmental control
- Completed MSc with merit in outcome measurement for quality of life reporting for people with aphasia

Speech & Language Therapist Whittington Hospital

2003 - 2004

Memberships

- Health & Care Professions Council
- Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists
- British Society of Aphasiologists
- Speech & Language Therapy Clinical Excellence Networks for Head Injury & Acquired Neurology

Ages Covered

Age 18 upwards