

Clare Cole

Expert Witness
Occupational Therapist

Essex



Professional Background

Clare Cole is a distinguished Occupational Therapist with 17 years of comprehensive experience across various clinical settings, including acute mental health facilities, major trauma units, and community-based rehabilitation programs. Her expertise encompasses a wide array of complex conditions, with a focus on neurological impairments and sensory disabilities. Recently, Clare has specialised in handling cases related to Erb's Palsy and visual impairments, broadening her skill set in these areas. Her work is particularly focused on enhancing the quality of life for individuals affected by these conditions, integrating innovative therapy techniques and adaptive technologies into her practice.

Clare's professional journey is marked by a deep commitment to education and continuous learning. She actively participates in specialised sections of her professional community, contributing to advancements in occupational therapy and rehabilitation. Her involvement in these groups keeps her at the forefront of clinical practice and enriches her contributions to the field through seminars, workshops, and published articles.

In October 2021, Clare completed her expert witness training and undertook her first case in early 2022. Since then, she has leveraged her clinical insights to provide clear, detailed, and evidence-based reports for legal proceedings and has produced over 30 reports. She maintains a balanced caseload, working equitably with both Claimant and Defendant teams and providing both Quantum and the Breach of Duty (Liability) reports. Fully trained in Civil Procedure Rules and their relevant updates, Clare ensures her expert testimony is both compliant and compelling. Clare's dedication to her profession is underscored by her commitment to ongoing professional development, participating in regular training sessions and clinical supervision to stay current with the latest practices and technologies in occupational therapy.

Specialisms

- Neurological Conditions & Stroke
- Spinal Injury
- Brain Injury
- Guillain Barré Syndrome
- Polytrauma & Orthopaedic Injuries
- Care, Aids & Equipment
- Occupational Therapy Reports
- Erb's Palsy
- FND

Age group

- Adults



Career history

- Independent OT (acquired brain injuries) 2025 - Present
Various Practices
- Expert Witness 2021 - Present
Harrison Associates
- Advanced Practice Development Occupational Therapist 2021 - 2025
Broomfield Hospital
 - Worked across the hospital to facilitate discharges and support the development of junior staff and students.
 - Clinical work covered all clinical areas, including brain injury, stroke, orthopaedics, the elderly, medical, and surgical.
- Therapies & Rehabilitation Service Lead 2019 - 2021
Sue Ryder, The Chantry
 - Held comprehensive clinical leadership responsibility for the Therapies & rehabilitation service within a level two neurological rehabilitation unit.
 - Led a multi-disciplinary team in providing specialist intensive inpatient input to patients with a comprehensive range of neurological conditions, including stroke, traumatic brain injury and Guillain-Barré syndrome.
 - Advised the local Clinical Commissioning Group on complex cases.
 - Led a successful adaptation to the impact of the pandemic, including introducing an outreach service.
 - Performed assessments under the Mental Capacity Act, chaired challenging family meetings and worked closely with social services and other partners.
- Specialist Neurological Occupational Therapist 2017 - 2019
North East London Foundation Trust
 - Worked in a specialist community neurological service, working with patients with acquired brain injury and long-term neurological conditions.
 - This involved managing the rehabilitation of individuals with complex physical, cognitive, psychological and communication impairments.
 - Supported junior staff and led the delivery of various projects, including a service audit and establishing a rehabilitation assistant competency framework.
- Senior Occupational Therapist 2015 - 2017
Royal London Hospital
 - Worked on the major trauma unit, assessing patients with polytrauma including spinal, brain and orthopaedic injuries and amputations.
 - Advised on care packages and residential placement within elderly medicine.
 - She also gained significant experience within the acute and hyperacute stroke unit and completed a secondment in the complex discharge team.
- Senior Occupational Therapist (Community Rotation) 2012 - 2015
Surrey Community Health
 - Led occupational therapy delivery for patients with neurological conditions, working within a stroke team for early discharge, a community rehabilitation team and a rapid response & falls team.



Career history

- Occupational Therapist (Community Rotation) 2010 - 2012
Surrey Community Health
 - Obtained experience across a variety of settings, including community paediatrics and intermediate care.
 - Occupational Therapist 2009- 2010
 - Surrey and Borders Partnership Trust
 - Acute mental health for Working age adults

Qualifications

- BSc (Hons) Human Sciences (First Class), 2009
- Post Graduate Diploma Occupational Therapy

Professional Memberships

- British Association of Occupational Therapists
- Health & Care Professions Council

