

Hannah O'Brien

Expert Witness
Occupational Therapist

Stafford



Professional Background

Hannah O'Brien is a Senior Occupational Therapist with over eleven years of clinical experience working across acute hospital, community and specialist services. Her practice spans a broad range of adult clinical settings, including general medicine and surgery, neurological conditions, trauma and orthopaedics, palliative care, pain management, forensic mental health, specialist falls services and discharge to assess pathways within both acute and community contexts. This breadth of experience has enabled her to develop a flexible, holistic and evidence-based approach to assessment and intervention.

Hannah has significant experience working with adults and older adults presenting with complex needs, including multiple co-morbidities, reduced mobility, cognitive impairment and functional decline following illness, injury or hospital admission. Her clinical work has included individuals with neurological conditions, recurrent falls, mental health needs within forensic settings, and those requiring specialist assessment for safe discharge and community living. She undertakes comprehensive functional assessments and delivers targeted rehabilitation aimed at reducing risk, improving mobility and supporting sustained independence. For a substantial period of her career, Hannah worked within a Specialist Falls Management Service, where she developed in-depth expertise in falls risk assessment, prevention strategies and functional rehabilitation. In her current role within clinical and assessment services, she continues to work across discharge to assess pathways, contributing to timely decision-making and coordinated care planning within complex health and social care systems.

Alongside her clinical practice, Hannah has a strong interest in supervision, training and education. She has supported the development of colleagues and students and has completed postgraduate study in approaches to teaching and learning in healthcare, reinforcing her commitment to reflective practice and high professional standards. Hannah is fully trained in the Civil Procedure Rules, including relevant revisions as they arise. She maintains her professional expertise through ongoing CPD, reflective practice and mentoring within clinical teams.

Specialisms

- Falls assessment, prevention and rehabilitation
- Functional assessment and rehabilitation
- Neurological conditions affecting mobility, balance and daily function
- Trauma and orthopaedic injury
- Pain management and pain-related functional limitation
- Cognitive impairment

Age group

- Frailty and age-related functional decline
 - Complex co-morbidity and functional deterioration
 - Discharge to Assess pathways and post-acute rehabilitation
 - Community reablement and promotion of independence
 - Forensic mental health occupational therapy
 - Palliative care functional assessment and support planning
- Adults



Career history

- Occupational Therapist, Band 6 2022 - Present
Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust:
- Band 6 Occupational Therapist 2015 - 2022
Specialist Falls Management Service
Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust
- Occupational Therapist 2015
Forensic Mental Health, South Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent NHS Trust
- Rotational Occupational Therapist 2014 - 2015
Walsall Healthcare Trust

Qualifications

- Coventry University, BSc Hons
Occupational Therapy, 2014
- University of Staffordshire, Master
Module, Approaches to Teaching and
Learning in Healthcare, 2024

Professional Memberships

- HCPC
- Royal College of Occupational Therapy