
Education Expressions

Issue 11.3 Winter 2011/12



GROWING NEED TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

With a growing need for academic support to students with mental health conditions, Neuro Partners have seen a massive rise in referrals.

Lindsey Rayner, Head of Education Services, commented "At the start of this academic year we have already seen the number of students we support more than double since last year. "We are increasingly asked to provide support to students on the Autistic spectrum and with mental health conditions. Being a specialist provider enables us to



respond quickly and put together a tailored support package to specifically meet each individual student's needs."

Neuro Partners provide a wide range of educational support to students with brain injury,

neurological conditions, mental health conditions, learning disabilities, physical disabilities and behavioural issues. Neuro Partners will deliver support to individuals with various other conditions where they believe they have the relevant expertise and can guarantee the highest quality of service.

Neuro Partners are registered with the Care Quality Commission enabling them to also provide personal care and assistance with medication.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INPUT AVAILABLE FOR ASSESSMENTS

If you're an assessment centre, or independent assessment body, requiring some occupational therapy input to complete DSA assessments for your students, Neuro Partners are able to assist in identifying a student's support needs such as support in lectures or other classes, note-taking, mentoring, support using the library or with developing or writing assignments. Our experienced Occupational Therapists will identify any requirements for specialist equipment and assistive technology, for example, a computer with specialist software, ergonomic seating, keyboard or hardware, and mobility equipment.

During the assessment, discussions will take place around the student's educational programme, their individual disability and their support needs, suggesting a variety of solutions for meeting those support needs before agreeing which would be most appropriate.

Following the initial meeting, the assessor will write up the particulars of the assessment, identifying details of the programme, the disability concerned, barriers which may be encountered during study,



possible solutions to those problems, and the recommended solution. The report will also include costs pertaining to the recommended services and equipment, and identify in as much detail as possible how the student can access the recommendations made.

For further details, or to discuss specific needs, call the Education Team on 0191 491 1735.

WE'RE SUPPORTING ELSIE ALL THE WAY!!



Elsie Richardson, 85, began studying for her PhD after completing her Masters at the age of 75, and is now working towards her doctorate, while recovering from bowel cancer.

Elsie takes up her story; "In the last 4 years I have been registered partially sighted due to macular degeneration, which is progressing, and I believe I will soon be registered blind. Shortly after this I was diagnosed with diabetes and then bowel cancer, which I am told is now completely cured. I also suffer from arthritis in my hip, knee and foot which necessitates using a walking stick and the regular use of taxis.

"I was initially supported by

Neuro Partners because of my sight, but I now also have personal support because of these other problems. Without their help I would have been unable to carry on with my PhD which is now in its final year.

"With assistance from my educational support worker and a year's extension from my University, I am doing very well. I'm no longer able to read so my support worker reads passages from books and papers which I interpret into my own words and dictate back to her for typing up on the computer.

"Without this essential assistance a valuable piece of work would have been lost. I'm told my thesis is unique in the respect of an older person researching older people!"

Before her PhD Elsie completed an MA in guidance and Counselling at the age of 75. Since then she's been very busy as the chair for North East Forum on Ageing, the chair for North East Opag, vice chair for National Pensioners Convention, trustee of the Elders Council as well as involvement in several government research groups. She's also an outside lecturer for a North East University.

"ZIP!" ALAN STRIKES A CORD

Neuro Partner's Assistant Psychologist, Alan Bowman, recently braved the 25m drop to ride a zip wire from the Tyne Bridge to Newcastle's Quayside in aid of local charity, Disability North.

Alan had to climb over the edge of the Tyne Bridge before riding the 230m long wire, 25m in the air over the river Tyne, and landing on Newcastle's Quayside. However, our very own 'Caped Crusader' was completely unfazed by the whole ordeal, and says he can't wait to do it again next year!



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The management and staff of Neuro Partners would like to extend their warmest wishes for the festive season, and wish you all the very best for 2012!

Our offices will be closed from Friday 23 December 2011 and will re-open on Tuesday 3 January 2012.

Support will continue as arranged, and our "On-call" numbers will remain contactable 24 hours per day throughout the entire holiday season.

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