

## **PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE**

Susan Hourihan BAppSc(OT) PGC in MS

Susan Hourihan is an occupational therapist registered with the Health Professions Council and graduated in 1993. She has worked in the NHS in the fields of neuro-medicine, neuro-surgery, neuro-rehabilitation, neuro-psychiatry, general medicine, vocational rehabilitation and in a specialist role in Multiple Sclerosis. She has worked in the United States of America in the fields of older adults, neuro-rehabilitation and as a paediatric/ schools Occupational Therapist.

Since 2001, Susan has worked at the national Hospital for Neurology and Neuro-surgery. In 2003 she was appointed to the role of clinical specialist occupational therapist in neurology, neuro-surgery and neuro-rehabilitation (outpatients and Psychiatry) and since 2008, she has taken up the Multiple Sclerosis Clinical Team Lead role leading an inter-disciplinary team of physiotherapists, occupational therapists and nurses specialised in MS. In these roles, Susan has been the lead therapist for Complex Seating for people with Neurological disability running a weekly complex seating clinic and running regular, adult neurological complex seating and posture courses. The diagnoses involved cover a broad range of diseases including Parkinson's disease, Ataxias, Multiple Sclerosis, Motor Neurone Disease, Stroke, Multi-System Atrophy, cerebral palsy and head injuries.

Susan has been a core group member writing specialist guidelines for OT's working with people with Multiple Sclerosis (MS Society UK) and Ataxia (Ataxia UK) and is actively involved in working with neurological charities such as the MS Trust, MS Society and Ataxia UK.

For Harrison Training, Susan has been involved in development and presentation of training courses including Multiple Sclerosis and Seating and Posture courses. Susan is a member of the occupational therapy specialist interest section for vocational rehabilitation COTSS Work, Neurological disorders COTSSNP and a core group member of the multi-disciplinary professional group TiMS (Therapists in Multiple Sclerosis).

2010