

Kirsty Johnson

Health and Care Professions Council number: SL32378

Royal College SLT registration: RC0031961



Personal Profile

I graduated from Newcastle University in 2014 and have worked for over seven years in the NHS with children with speech, language and communication needs. My experience has predominately been with children and young people undertaking assessments and therapy in clinics, mainstream schools and client homes. I have experience of working within a multidisciplinary team and am committed to delivering person-centred therapy with functional goals. Through my involvement with harder to reach families, I am passionate about supporting parents and carers to engage with speech and language therapy services.

I am dedicated to helping to support young people to develop their communication skills and achieve their full potential. I have a particular interest in early years and complex needs and those with acquired brain injuries. I am also interested in working with children with learning disability and social communication difficulties.

Professional Qualifications

2010-2014 Newcastle University

BSc Speech and Language Sciences (First Class Honours)

1994-1996 University of Northumbria, Newcastle

Postgraduate Diploma in Housing Policy and Management (Distinction)

1991-1994 University of Hull

BA Honours Degree in Social Policy and Administration (2:1)

Training Received:

- Level 1 Picture Exchange Communication System (Pyramid Education)
- Level 1 Makaton Training
- All mandatory training (e.g. basic life support, safeguarding, Information Governance)
- Symbol Training for children with Downs Syndrome

ATtherapy
Chambers Business Centre,
Chapel Rd, Oldham, OL8 4QQ
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- Clinical Practice Educator Training
- Susan Ebbels: The current evidence for school-age children with language impairment

Work experience

ATtherapy – April 2022 – present

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

I am employed at ATtherapy as a specialist speech and language therapist, supporting clients in the north east of England. I will hold a clinical caseload of children and with acquired brain injury and associated communication impairments.

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust - April 2021 - April 2022

Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

I was responsible for the caseload management of children with a wide range of communication difficulties, including some children who required support with low-tech means of communication (using switches, signing, communication boards and books). I delivered therapy to work on speech sound delay and disorders and worked on targets to develop verbal language and social communication skills, including using Comic Strip Conversations and Social Stories. In addition, I provided support and supervision for Band 5 therapists and held line management responsibilities. I met with other specialist and clinical leads to develop the Trust's service provision and discussed ways to develop the children's workforce and deliver external training.

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust- January 2015 - April 2021

Speech and Language Therapist

In this role, I managed a large caseload of children aged 2-11 years and undertook initial assessments and reviews of children with speech and language difficulties in mainstream schools, clinics and homes. I wrote initial assessment and discharge reports and provided written information with outcomes to be included in Education Health and Care Plans. I also carried out individual one-to-one therapy and set targets for Speech and Language Therapy Assistants. Treatment plans were targeted to meet individual needs and covered speech sound work, early language strategies and language disorders. My role involved close liaison with parents, teachers and school support staff to enable them to deliver indirect intervention and encourage effective collaboration. I also contributed towards the Social Communication Assessment Team diagnostic ASD pathway and undertook observations and assessments in order to complete ICD-10 paperwork. I worked in partnership with specialist colleagues and provided environmental strategies to help and support to children with early dysfluency.

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Anchor Staying Put- November 2005- August 2010

Caseworker

I visited older people at home to provide advice on obtaining financial help, including local government grants and loans available to repair their properties

Hanover Housing- January 2001- November 2005

Estate Manager

I managed sheltered housing and acted as a facilitator to ensure elderly residents aged over received appropriate care and support from statutory and other bodies.

Three Rivers Housing- January 1996- January 2000

Housing Officer

I was responsible for the patch management of rented housing, which involved looking after rental income, dealing with repairs and neighbour nuisance.

Additional Skills

I have had a number of roles before undertaking a career change and qualifying as a Speech and Language Therapist. This included employment as a Housing Officer and as an Estate Manager, managing sheltered accommodation. This involved working with older people, some who had complex physical difficulties, acting as an advocate to ensure that they were able to access appropriate support and care. I also volunteered in a primary school for a day a week for six months ahead of starting my speech therapy degree. This provided me with the opportunity to observe and learn from experienced teachers, whilst obtaining an understanding of the curriculum and working with small groups of children with additional needs.

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