



# The Rehabilitation Network

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## Neil Robdale

**Occupational Therapist & Case Manager**

HPC: OT16595 COTSS-IP: 60125



## Profile

Neil qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 1988 and began working in the field of mental health. Early on he became involved with various vocational rehabilitation projects for people with mental health problems and he has continued with this theme throughout his career.

In 2002 he project managed the start of a specific mental health Job Retention Project in Shropshire, whose remit was to support people 'off sick' from work with a mental health problem to return to their existing employment. Their employment would have been seriously threatened by their continued sickness and mental health issues. This involved face to face negotiation with employers in order to set up return to work packages, including reasonable adjustments under the Disability Discrimination Act. Through this he became involved in offering training to other organisations regarding DDA and Job Retention. He also trained as a Mediator in regard to work place conflicts.

Neil joined The Rehabilitation Network in 2007 and he has extended his experience to physical health conditions as well as mental health. He has been involved with people who have had a variety of injuries: Back injuries, lower limb, upper limb, neurological and mental health problems.

Since March 2007 Neil has also been part-time lecturer at Glyndwr University on the Occupational Therapy Programme as well as continuing part-time with Shropshire Mental Health Trust.

## Career History

**Oct 2008—present**

**Lecturer on Occupational Therapy course at Glyndwr University, Wrexham**

**Oct 2008—present**

**Community Mental Health worker at Assertive Outreach Team, Oswestry**

**May 2007—present**

**Rehabilitation Case Manager, Rehabilitation Network**

Providing assessment and provision of rehabilitation services and vocational rehabilitation through individual case management.

**May 2007—Mar 2008**

**Secondment as Social Firms Project Officer, Abbeyworks, Shrewsbury**

This involved the initiation of a Project group, Steering group, service-user involvement, review systems and first moves towards social firm status.

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### Administration:

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[www.rehabilitation-network.org](http://www.rehabilitation-network.org)



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**Oct 2002—Oct 2008**

**Team Leader, Specialist Occupational Therapist—Enable Job Retention Service**

I was instrumental in setting up this service from October 2002 onwards. It began as a 6 month pilot project, which was so successful it was given permanent funding. The service supports people who are on sickness absence with a mental health problem in order for them to return to work. I supervised a Senior Employment Retention Officer.

**Apr 1997—Oct 2002**

**Senior 1 Occupational Therapist, South Shrewsbury Community Mental Health Team**

This position involved care-coordination and therapeutic intervention for people with mental health conditions, visiting them in their own homes in order to support them in the community. Interventions were mainly on an individual basis with some group interventions.

**Apr 1995—Apr 1997**

**Senior 1 Occupational Therapist, South Wrekin Community Mental Health Team**

Similar to above. Groups involved anger management and assertiveness training.

**Jun 1991—Feb 1995**

**Senior 1 Occupational Therapist, Ely Community Mental Health Team**

Based in a day centre this involved mostly group interventions, but also with an individual caseload. Groups involved Snack Bar, countryside conservation, furniture restoration, anxiety management and assertiveness training.

**Sept 1990—May 1991**

**Project Manager, SAMHS Kitchen, Scottish Association for Mental Health, Edinburgh**

This position involved managing a catering project for people with mental health problems, funded through Employment Training. I supervised 3 members of staff and 30 trainees.

**Aug 1988—Sept 1990**

**Basic grade / Senior 2 Occupational Therapist, Thomas Clouston Clinic, Royal Edinburgh Hospital**

This position involved helping to run a day service resource for people with enduring mental health problems. It catered for up to 50 people with mental health problems, providing therapeutic interventions mainly through group work and industrial therapy activities.

## *Professional Qualifications*

- 1988: Dorset House College of Occupational Therapy, Oxford: Diploma in Occupational Therapy

## *Areas Covered:*

**Shropshire, North Wales, Cheshire, Staffordshire & West Midlands**

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