

**RWPN Annual Seminar**

**Birmingham City University – City South Campus**

**Thursday 9th July 2015**

**Programme, Speaker Biographies and Exhibitors**

**08.30 Registration and Refreshments**

**09.45 RWPN Annual General Meeting and presentation: How do we define what makes a profession?**

**10.20 BSc Degree Top-Up Pathway announcement - Birmingham City University**

**10.30** **Vision Services and Occupational Therapy: Creating a better understanding – Suzy England**

Occupational Therapists (OTs) work closely with those at high risk of sight loss; they work with older people after falls, post stroke, with dementia, and with people across the life span with other physical or learning disabilities.

Suzy England (Occupational Therapy and Sight Loss Consultant) has been working for Thomas Pocklington Trust to raise awareness of sight loss amongst the 30,000 OTs working in the UK. Building on previous research where OTs have indicated a need for further CPD resources, Pocklington has been working with the College of Occupational Therapists, in partnership with other sight loss charities and RWPN, to create a better understanding of the impact of sight loss on older people and where OTs can contribute. This session will share some examples of this work and of areas of practice that require further development.

**10.55-11.20 Coffee break and exhibition stands**

**11.20 – 12.20 Choice of workshops.** Choose one from the four below:

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| **1) Care and Support Policy Guidance for Deafblind** **Children and Adults, 2014, issued in conjunction with the Care Act, 2014.**  Debbie James, Director Deafblind Enablement (DBE) Annette Bodsworth, Awareness Officer, DBE | 2**) The Interface of Habilitation & Rehabilitation**  Pete Lock and Lisa Petrie | **3) Unified English Braille: y c d x!**  Catherine Smith and Theresa McMordie | **4) Telescopic Implants**  James Bole |
| This presentation will highlight the following themes: Definition of Deafblindness  Care Act 2014 regulatory requirements, including Specialist Assessments, Care/Support Planning, Communicator-Guides, Advocacy, Fluctuating needs, Reviews, RAS system and Information and Advice  Care and Support Policy Guidance, 2014 – mandatory implications with additional responsibilities and examples of good practice in localities  DBE’s view regarding specialist skills and formal training required to work with a variety of deafblind people in differing settings  How you can assist deafblind people to feel empowered and receive appropriate services to meet their needs, including holistic and realistic perceptions. Also, how you can focus on outcomes, aspirations and intervention that will ensure deafblind people are enabled to live their lives with control, choice and dignity. | Explores the similarities and difference between roles when working with Children & Young People with a Sight Loss, defining habilitation intervention and its crucial importance in early years development and for those with complex needs. It will look at collaborative working with other disciplines as well as providing an overview of the support provided by Blind Children UK 'Movement Matters' habilitation service. | Provides a practical introduction to the key changes to literary braille due to the formal roll out of Unified English Braille (UEB) in the UK this year. The session will compare the first 22 lessons in the old Standard English Braille Primer with the new UEB Primer to demonstrate the changes that you need to know when teaching braille or supporting someone get to grips with the changes. This approach will also serve as a refresher for people who feel their braille is a bit  rusty and could also whet the appetite of those rehab workers whose training did not encompass contracted (Grade 2) braille. | Implantable Miniature Telescopes may be considered as an option for  those with end-stage Age-related Macular Degeneration. At this time it  is not NHS-funded but assessments can be done at a number of ophthalmic clinics to determine suitability. The key factor with this surgery, which differs from similar types, is that it has a comprehensive rehabilitation programme. It involves pre-op contact with a potential patient, a post-operative meeting and ongoing rehabilitation training over a period of 3 or more months and review by the Ophthalmic surgeon.  Find out more about the assessment and how rehabilitation is integrated into the process. |

**12.20 - 13.30 Sandwich Lunch in exhibition room (room 151)**

**13.30 Choice of workshop.** Choose one from the remaining three (above)

**14.30 - 14.50 Break**

**14.50 Keynote Lecture: Eye, Brain and Vision – What Happens When the Brain Doesn’t Play Ball, Mark Gray**

**15.50 Closing Remarks**

**16.00 End of meeting**

**Speaker Biographies**

**Annette Bodsworth, MBE** In Essex, Annette has been instrumental in advocating for services for deafblind people for over 15 years. On a national scale, she has been invaluable in educating MPs and influencing legislation for the Care Act, 2014 and Deafblind Guidance. Annette is deafblind herself, and has received her own specialist assessment and PA / Communicator-Guide service. She has recently undertaken further training in specialist assessments.

**James Bole BSc Hons. GCGI. MIfL** James is a freelance Rehabilitation Officer for Vision Rehabilitation Ltd as well as part of a specialist rehabilitation team for FocalPoint UK (for the Implantable Miniature Telescope programme).  He is vice-chair of RWPN, and a Trustee for Headway UK (Aylesbury Vale)

**Suzy England** Suzy is an Occupational Therapy and Sight Loss Consultant with Thomas Pocklington Trust. Thomas Pocklington Trust is a charity committed to increasing awareness and understanding of the needs of people with sight loss. Suzy’s role is to promote increased awareness and detection of, and referral and support for, sight loss amongst Occupational Therapists at all levels.  She leads a programme of activity which includes development and roll out of CPD learning materials and tools for practice. Suzy has been qualified as an OT since 2003 and has worked for both the public sector and in independent practice in predominantly older people’s services.

**Mark Gray** Formally the RNIB Training Research & Development officer for Multiple Disabilities from 1990 to 2005 Mark Gray is the managing director of a health & social care consultancy group providing training consultancy & personal budget support for individuals across the UK. Mark is a visiting lecturer on the Diploma & BSc in Rehabilitation Studies at BCU and an associate editor of the BJVI within the field of sensory loss, and he has similar positions in the field of learning disabilities. Mark has over thirty years’ experience of practice in the field of dual sensory loss, multiple disabilities & complex needs, and is a published author & writer. He is also Chair of the National Network for Learning Disabilities Nursing and a Nursing Times Awards judge.

**Debbie** **James, Director, DBE** Debbie has over 32 years of experience working in the field of dual sensory loss, assessing, advising and teaching deafblind people experiencing a variety of complex needs with an enablement focus. In addition, Debbie designs and delivers specialist training to professionals and others working in the field of deafblindness. Debbie has also been practicing as a qualified Rehabilitation Officer for over 25 years.

**Peter Lock** In February 2006 Peter joined a Sensory Support Team for a local Health & Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland as a trainee rehabilitation worker. He qualified from Birmingham City University in 2008, returning in 2010 to 2012 completing the BSc Hons -Top up in Rehabilitation Work. Prior to joining the profession he had around 15 years' experience within the caring profession covering a wide range of environments and services, including Residential Social Work with Children & Young People with severe learning disability and complex needs, Transitions Worker for school leavers with a learning disability, domiciliary care service delivery and day care work in both physical disability and mental health provision. In September 2013 Peter joined Guide Dogs as habilitation specialist and subsequently now works for Blind Children UK on the 'Movement Matters Program'. This role has provided a great opportunity for him to combine years of knowledge and experience with children & young people with the skills associated with rehabilitation work.

**Theresa McMordie** Theresa lives in Wiltshire and has just completed the Rehabilitation Work (Visual Impairment) Foundation Degree programme at Birmingham City University. Alongside her studies, Theresa was one of the course student representatives as well as being the student coordinator of *Partners in Braille,* a joint student and staff academic mentoring project for year one students. Before embarking on the course, Theresa worked for many years in the sight loss field, primarily with children. Theresa is looking forward to taking on a qualified Rehabilitation Worker role and is keen to further develop her knowledge and skills by studying for one of the BSc (Hons) top up degrees at BCU.

**Lisa Petrie** Lisa started her career in Guide Dogs in 1998 and in 2000 was lucky enough to be seconded to complete the Rehabilitation Course. Upon qualification Lisa went to work with children and young people in the Highlands of Scotland where her remit was to deliver O&M. Lisa subsequently returned to study whilst working and completed the ACE qualification working with children with a visual impairment, followed by an ACE course in sensory impairment and multiple needs. Her role in Guide Dogs has seen Lisa work with children and young people in Blackburn with Darwen and Manchester. She says she was fortunate enough to focus on working within her areas of interest which are early years and children with a visual impairment and additional, complex or profound needs. Her current role is that of Service Delivery Manager - CYP for Scotland but also continues to provide technical supervision for teams in England and Northern Ireland and maintain a small level of work directly with children and young people.

**Catherine Smith** Catherine qualified as a Rehabilitation Worker in 2004 at the University of Central England (now BCU) and worked firstly as a Rehabilitation Officer and then a manager at Bradford Council Sensory Needs Services. In 2012 Catherine took up the post of Senior Lecturer on the Rehabilitation Work (Visual Impairment) BSc (Hons) and Foundation Degree programmes at BCU. Catherine is the lead for work-based learning as well as the coordinator for several modules including Activities of Daily Living and Communications, which includes teaching the braille component of the Rehabilitation Work Foundation Degree course.

**Exhibitors**

At the time of compiling this programme, the following organisations indicated that they will be exhibiting in Room 151:

* Blindability, Blind Veterans UK, Georgiephone, Humanware, NB – RNIB publications, Optelec, Pamtrad, Rehabilitation Workers Professional Network, Royal National College for the Blind, Synapptic, Thomas Pocklington Trust