

Blackheath Brain Injury Rehabilitation Centre  
and Neurodisability Service

Catherine Symington

ABIL Meeting

19<sup>th</sup> September 2007


Part of the Huntercombe Group, we aim to be a centre of excellence in the provision of specialised in-patient rehabilitation and care for people with complex neurological disability.

The Centre comprises of two units:

- Thames Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit(18beds) registered HCC as an Independent Hospital Mental Health Establishment & MHAC
- Heathside Neurodisability Unit (18 beds) registered CSCI Nursing Home for Younger People with Physical Disabilities



- Primarily adults between 18 -65 years with complex neurological disability including people detained under the Mental Health Act
- Main groups treated include those people with acquired brain injury and changes in behaviour that limit the ability to participate in and benefit from treatment activities offered by their local and district rehabilitation services i.e.. aggressive or impulsive behaviours, poor compliance with therapy, comorbid psychiatric disorder
- Exclusion criteria include medically unstable patients, tracheostomy in situ.

*The*  
Huntercombe  Heathside Neurodisability Unit  
*Group*

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- Provides rehabilitation for individuals with acquired brain injury of any cause and/or progressive neurological conditions
- Main groups treated are people with complex neurological disability including people with tracheostomy, swallowing problems and people with low levels of arousal
- Capacity for the longer term care for a small number of people



- Individually tailored interdisciplinary goal focussed programme
- Focus on reducing the physical, cognitive, behavioural and emotional consequences of brain injury
- Consultant Neuropsychiatrist, Consultant in Rehabilitation and General Practitioner
- Comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment, behaviour management and complex discharge planning from admission
- Centred-based and community-based therapy

*The*  
Huntercombe  Specific Services  
*Group*

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- Service for people with acquired brain injury and psychiatric diagnosis
- Group programmes to enhance peer group interaction and unawareness of cognitive and behavioural difficulties
- Community-based therapy & integration including leisure pursuits such as sailing
- Support for families and partners of people with brain injury
- Liaison and training with community services in preparation for discharge

*The*  
Huntercombe  Principles of our approach  
*Group*

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- Focus on function and emphasis on empowerment
- Collaboration with patients and families – case review 10 weeks, reports, key workers and named nurses
- Collaboration with referrers and commissioners
- Focus on patient and public involvement
- Company led audit of service
- Focus on improving outcome measures – HONOS, Behavioural data, Bartel, NPDS , RCS & FIM/FAM
- Focus on applying current knowledge from the fields of neuroscience and neuropsychology – partnership with Goldsmiths University Department of Psychology MSC Cognition & Neuroscience

*The*  
Huntercombe  Special facilities  
*Group*

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- Single bedrooms with wash hand basins and/or ensuite facilities
- Independent living flat
- Hydrotherapy and gym
- ADL kitchen
- Garden areas
- Sensory stimulation
- Community-based leisure activities eg. sailing
- Partnership with external agencies eg. voluntary and specialist medical services

*The*  
Huntercombe  Regulatory Review  
*Group*

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- Huntercombe Group, Specialised Services Division annual & monthly unannounced reviews, reports and audits
- Healthcare Commission and Commission for Social Care Inspection annual and unannounced inspections , reports & self -assessments
- Mental Health Act Commission annual inspections and reports
- Environmental Health inspections and reports

*The*  
Huntercombe  Way Forward  
*Group*

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- ICF Model
- Research
- Outcome Measures
- Development
- Ongoing process of service & professional review & improvement