



Victoria Sweeney – Case Manager

Personal Profile:

Case Manager at LOD Care and Case Management Ltd.

I have been nursing since the age of 23 and am passionate about giving patients the high-quality care that they deserve. I work well both within a team and as a lone worker, where I have learned to be self-directed and self-motivated and am therefore very accountable in managing my caseloads. I am a good communicator and a good organiser of people.

As a mother of three children, (one of whom has SEN), I have first-hand experience of the challenges faced by parents and can empathise with some of the problems and challenges parents may face, including working with schools and local authorities through the EHCP assessment and review process.

I successfully completed my four-year Children's Nursing Degree at the University of Birmingham in 1998. Birmingham, with its diverse multicultural population provided me with a broad experience base in looking after children from very different social and cultural backgrounds.

Experience:

- Spinal injuries of all levels (paediatric).
- Traumatic brain injury (paediatric to include: high level physical functional difficulties, cognitive difficulties, vegetative state and minimal awareness).
- Cerebral palsy (paediatric).
- Respiratory diseases - various to include acute and chronic conditions.
- Tracheostomy / ventilated children.
- Learning disabilities (paediatric).
- Orthopaedic injuries (Paediatric).
- Severe, chronic and life limiting health needs.
- Life threatening conditions with multiple and complex needs.
- Immunology, bone marrow transplant and infectious diseases (paediatric).
- Cardiology and congenital heart disease (paediatric).
- Epilepsy.
- Development of transitional goals.
- Education and Health Care Plans, reviews and tribunals (EHCP).
- Recruitment of specialist therapists and support workers.
- Discharge of employer's responsibilities on behalf of the client.

Professional Qualifications:

- BNurs (Hons); RNChild.
- Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC): registered nurse - children (part 15). Pin: 94Y0549E.
- Royal College of Nursing: associate membership - number 1795465.
- ENB approved registered children's nurse.
- ENB approved programme completed for the intensive care nursing of children (415).

Accreditations:

- Registered on the Nurses Registration Board of New South Wales (RN1747306)
- Nursing Council of New Zealand: registration number 156047.

Background:

Following completion of my training, I chose to move to London to start my nursing career and spent my first year consolidating my training by working as a staff nurse on a general paediatric ward and high dependency unit. I then moved on to work at Great Ormond Street Hospital on their cardiac high dependency and heart transplant unit before specialising in paediatric intensive care.

I gained a wealth of experience nursing children with a broad spectrum of clinical complaints, ranging from head injuries and neurological conditions, to oncological and infectious diseases, lung and chronic heart disease, burns, plastics and spinal surgery to neonatal prematurity and congenital abnormalities.

As a result of my love of travel and desire to work overseas, I completed a six-month contract at Westmead Children's' Hospital in Sydney where I worked in their Emergency Department. From Sydney, I then went to New Zealand where I worked part time on a NICU at the Women's Hospital in Christchurch.

Following my return to the UK, I further pursued my career working on PICU, NICU and CICU at Great Ormond Street, before then taking a career break for maternity reasons. On returning to work, I chose to work on an immunology and infectious diseases ward (Robin Ward) at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

More recently, after relocating to North Hampshire, I have worked as a nurse in a number of special schools for children with additional needs. In this capacity I worked as part of a continuous health care team alongside various multi-agencies and professionals such as teachers, social workers, occupational therapists, dietitians, physiotherapists, community paediatric nurses, learning disability nurses and consultant paediatricians.

I have been actively involved in child protection cases as well as teaching staff members and being a resource in such areas as epilepsy, airway management, anaphylaxis and gastrostomy feeds. I have led Team Around the Child (TAC) meetings, assisted with medicals and generally acted as an advocate for children with special needs and their families.

I have used this valuable knowledge and experience base to embrace my career in paediatric case management and have now been working in this field for over four years. In this time, I have formed trusting and lengthy professional relationships with my clients and their lawyers and have worked hard helping them to achieve their goals. I have a wealth of experience to draw from in helping families meet their needs within the case management area.