

Hannah Smith

BSC (hons) Occupational Therapy
Senior Occupational Therapist,
Somerset County Council



Hannah Smith : Hannah is a Senior Occupational Therapist working in Community Adult Social Care. Hannah gained her degree in 2001 at St Loyes School of Health Professionals in Exeter. She is now working towards her Masters in Advanced OT practise through Plymouth University. It is through this she has developed a specialist interest in Moving and Handling.

Sheenagh Orchard :

Sheenagh works in all areas of the health care sector and in individuals' homes providing Risk Assessment, training and ensuring safe systems of work using evidence-base as the framework. She runs specialist workshops and was co-author for HOP5. She is an active member of NBE - ten years on the local committee and 3 years Vice Chair of National Executive.



Double Handling within Domiciliary Care : the Potential to Produce Benefits Through Greater Utilisation of Equipment for the Elderly and Those with Physical Disabilities

This presentation will give an overview of the business case for investigating the potential for delivering significant savings to the Authority by substituting Aids to Mobility (AMT) and possibly a single carer, in place of two carers, to assist Service Users in their own home.

It is acknowledged that the domiciliary care sector is a scarce resource that is facing increasing demands due to the greater requirements of service users to remain in their own homes. The use of ATM's can potentially significantly reduce the on-going demand and cost of domiciliary care after the initial investment in equipment has been made. Additional benefits to the service user, such as the maintenance of dignity and comfort and increased flexibility when a carer is not in attendance are key in the driving force to make this practice current.

Data analysis of care packages and costs will demonstrate the growth in the use of double handling over the past four years and the projected statistics up to 2017.

Included are the methods of working with key stakeholders and the inter-agency working with the County's contracted care providers. The ongoing work on this project has identified that joint training between the Adult Social Care sector and Care Providers is fundamental in ensuring consistency of practice.

To support the presentation there will be discussion and demonstration of some of the Aids to Mobility and the methods that could be used by a single carer to meet care needs.

In the current financial climate, and at a time when there are changes in funding, this project will be of interest to other organisations wishing to consider how to give best value while supporting service users in a domiciliary setting.

The work carried out on this project has been developed by Southwest One in conjunction with Somerset County Council as part of the Category Management programme that is being implemented across the Authority. Southwest One is a joint venture company between several authorities in the south west of England and IBM.