

Foundations of Practice and Beyond

Tuesday

Stream B

Session 4 1330

Session 5 1430



Melanie Sturman

Personalising Moving and Handling

Biography

Melanie has been working as a Moving and Handling Advisor since 1998 and now works as a Back Care Advisor for Norfolk County Council. Melanie provides moving and handling training on the Norfolk initiative Passport to Care Scheme, which is a Health and Social Care BTEC Level 1 Award for personal assistants and informal carers. Melanie has recently developed a successful work hardening programme to assist staff back to work. Melanie originally trained as a Registered Nurse and has worked in the acute, community and private sectors. Melanie graduated from Loughborough University in 2008, with an MSc in Back Care Management. Melanie assisted with the evidence for HOP5 and has published articles on falls management.

Abstract

Current manual handling legislation considers personal assistants as domestic assistants rather than employees who are protected by the law. Local authorities are focusing on commissioning services rather than being a provider of services. Through transformation strategies and personalisation the number of personal assistants has increased. Despite people handlers being one of the largest group of people to suffer from musculoskeletal injuries it appears personal assistants are not protected by the law, or are they? As a direct result this group of people are vulnerable to musculoskeletal risk. The people receiving the budgets could also be considered vulnerable to poor practices and abuse. So what protection do they have?

One local authority currently has a legal case, where the claimant suffered a musculoskeletal injury as a result of providing care to an individual receiving a direct payment. This session explores the legal case and the how the local authority has decided that they have a duty of care rather than a statutory duty to protect the public from unnecessary risks.

The local authority is currently exploring ways of funding moving and handling training through schemes such as Train to Gain and small bursaries. This session will discuss ways local authorities can fund and support training initiatives. The local authority has developed several strategies for training personal assistants. The session will discuss training strategies which range from the BTEC Level Passport 2 Care award, generic moving and handling training and specialised one-to-one training within the client's own home. The session will also include the moving and handling advisor's role in supporting Occupational Therapists with complex case management, which is often seen as a problem with client's receiving individual budgets.

