



This is your guide to our acquired brain injury services for children and young people across the North West.

Your ABI Coordinator has given this booklet to you to introduce you to the services the Child Brain Injury Trust has to offer.



The Child Brain Injury Trust is a national charity working with families across the UK who are affected by childhood acquired brain injury. We support families in hospitals, schools and in the community – providing support when it is needed. All our services for families are offered without charge.

An Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) is not something that anyone plans for or sees coming. It can be a sudden and life changing situation and our team are here to help you and your family with the support and information you may need at this difficult time.

Our ABI Coordinators understand acquired brain injury and the impact it might have on the whole family. They are local to your area and have a network of support services that they can also signpost you to. You can access our services by visiting the Advice, Information and Referrals page on our website: childbraininjurytrust.org.uk/how-we-help/advice-information-referrals/ or by contacting your Coordinator directly.

What services can families expect?

Direct support for families in hospital and at home

Our Coordinators are not clinicians or doctors but are experts in their field and have a wealth of knowledge and experience to enable them to help people understand childhood acquired brain injury. They are there to listen and to help explain or clarify things for you.

They can also offer support to you whilst your child is in hospital and help you with things like understanding what is going on around you and who everybody is, sorting out finances and accessing appropriate benefits, taking time off from work and importantly, how to return to school in a supported way. They can also speak to other family members for you or advise you who to speak to in the hospital if you have questions. When you leave the hospital we will be with you and help with that transition when the time comes.

Support for siblings

We can offer specific help and support for siblings and can often explain things in an age appropriate way that they can understand. We can even provide some resources for them to read themselves or with you.



Goal setting and assessment of need

Although we don't offer a clinical service, we are able to assess non-clinical needs and help to put a plan in place to enable you and your family to move forwards. As part of this, we will work with you and help prioritise your needs and goals.

Signposting

When we are not able to help directly, we often know of an organisation or team that can. Our Coordinators have a great understanding of local networks where you can access additional support and they will signpost to the most appropriate organisations and help you understand what can sometimes be a minefield of information.

Family Support Hubs

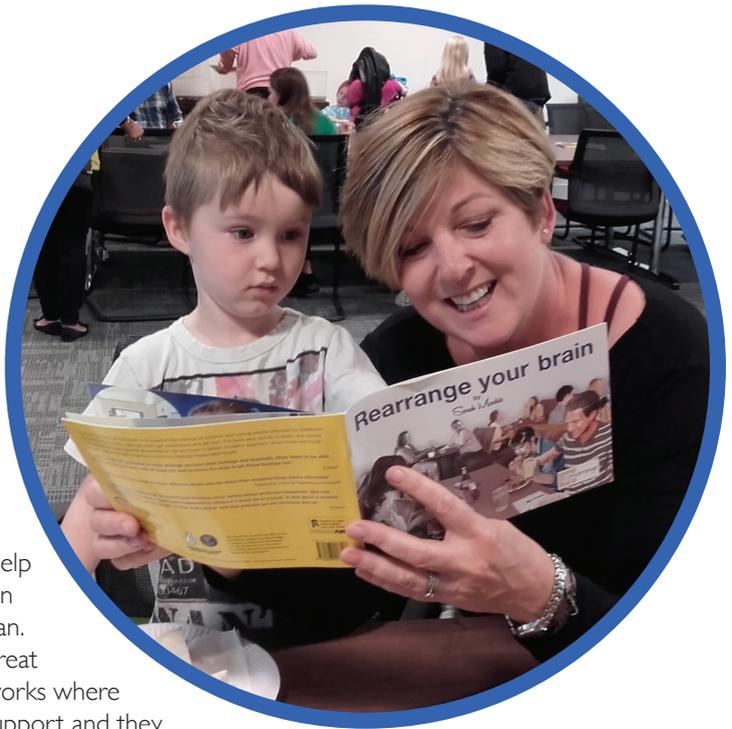
Once things are more settled, you may want to come along to one of our family support hubs where you can chat to other families going through a similar experience, or even to share your own experience and help other families. We also offer one to one support from our ABI Coordinator and sometimes have guest speakers.

Referral Service

In some cases, we are able to refer families for additional support and further intervention from other agencies such as Social Services, Outpatients clinics or community rehab, etc.

Support getting back to school

When your child is ready to go back to school, our ABI Coordinators will work with you and the school team to develop a 'phased return to school schedule' and make sure that the return is supportive and timely. We can also help with staff awareness sessions, peer support and with Special Educational Needs support. We also offer training for teachers – Understanding Childhood Acquired Brain Injury, which is without charge.



Social opportunities

When a brain injury happens, it can be an isolating situation. From time to time we offer social activities for the whole family to participate in. These activities are an opportunity for families to forget about brain injury and to focus on having fun. Please speak to your ABI Coordinator about what events are coming up in your area that you can become involved with.

Adolescence

We understand that teenage years and adolescence can be a tough time, so adding in possible effects from a brain injury may make things a little bit more difficult. We know and understand about this and it is another area that we can support you with. We can help with that transition through to further education and provide some helpful advice and strategies.

Information resources

Our website is full of useful information and resources for parents and carers, as well as for children and young people to understand what's going on. Your Coordinator will have some of these resources in the hospital and can bring some of them to you. You can also download factsheets onto a tablet or smartphone on many different topics by checking out our website: childbraininjurytrust.org.uk We can also print and send them to you on request.

We facilitate Family Support Facebook Groups. Your Coordinator will invite you to join, once we have your consent and when you're ready. The groups are a great place to chat, share information and hear about news and events going on in your area. [facebook.com/childbraininjurytrust](https://www.facebook.com/childbraininjurytrust)

E-learning

We have a large range of e-learning sessions that are completely free of charge for families and professionals. They cover topics such as returning to school, behaviour issues, sleep issues, understanding acquired brain injury, legal support and many more. You can access these via our website and can view them as many times as you wish. You can also take part on one of the live and interactive e-learning sessions we host regularly.

Legal Support Service

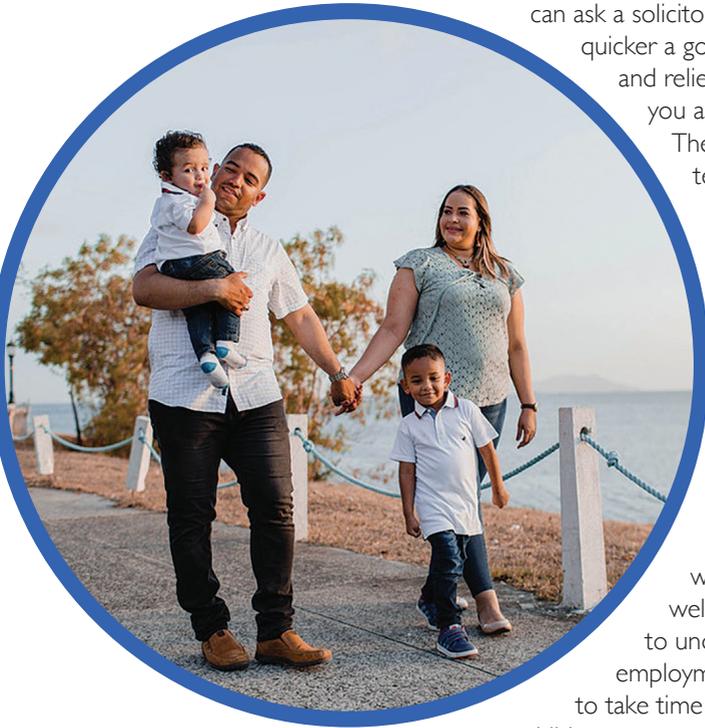
When a brain injury happens, we understand that whole family is affected. We understand what you are going through and want your family to have the best support for your journey. It's really important to get independent advice from an expert legal professional who understands childhood acquired brain injury and knows how to get the very best for your child's rehabilitation. It's also important to speak to someone as soon as you feel ready to have the conversation.

If your child was injured in an accident, the sooner you can ask a solicitor to investigate matters, the quicker a good legal expert can intervene and relieve some of the pressure that you are currently going through.

They can also work with the team of health professionals around your child and assist with the journey.

We have created a UK network of regional, trusted partnerships to ensure that the children, young people and families that we support get the right legal support as soon as possible.

This can cover a wide range of specialisms, from assisting with pursuing a claim for welfare benefits or compensation, to understanding what your employment rights are if you need to take time off work to care for your child.



Across the North West, our legal partner is JMW Solicitors LLP and the firm and its expert team have extensive experience, expertise and importantly, share our values of putting families first and listening to their needs. They have worked with the charity for many years and have represented countless families in similar circumstances to your own. They understand what you are going through and how to help you look to the future.

The members of the Child Brain Injury Trust's Legal Support Service have all made a donation to support the vital work of the charity. Further information can be found by visiting childbraininjurytrust.org/legalsupportservice

Meet the team

Andrew Lilley

Andrew has over 20 years' experience dealing with catastrophic injury claims, and has achieved several multi-million pounds settlements.

He is considered to be one of the best litigators in the region, and his peers citing him as "utterly dogged" and absolutely committed to ensuring that clients receive the very best early rehabilitation and support by obtaining the maximum possible settlement on their behalf.

**Contact Andrew by telephone: 0161 828 1958 or 07824 638 993
or by email: andrewlilley@jmw.co.uk**



Gordon Cartwright

Gordon is proud to be a Special Ambassador for the Child Brain Injury Trust. He is a dedicated and passionate advocate for his clients. Gordon has over 15 years' experience and his priority is to ensure that injury victims of catastrophic accidents receive the best standard of care to maximise their chances of making the best recovery possible and to ensure appropriate care and support for the remainder of their lives. With particular expertise in paediatric brain injury claims and road traffic accidents where the police have taken no action against the motorist, independent sources have dubbed him to be "frighteningly efficient". He regularly secures seven figure settlements for his client's including a recent settlement of £5 million for a child who sustained a brain injury in a road traffic accident at the age of 6.

Recent praise received from one of Gordon's clients "*To be in a family's life for a number of years in the most difficult of circumstances undoubtedly takes dedication, skill and professionalism, all of which has been consistently displayed by Gordon, but add to this kindness, compassion and a great deal of encouragement and hope for the future and you'll get a sense of the huge difference they make to the families they work with. I would have no hesitation recommending Gordon to any other family injured and lost and needing the best legal and practical support you could wish for.*"

**Contact Gordon by telephone: 0161 828 1832 or 07545 930 121
or by email: gordoncartwright@jmw.co.uk**



Sally Leonards

Sally has over 20 years' experience in the field. She has a particular interest and expertise in complex brain and spinal injury cases.

Sally is noted to be hugely experienced with strong people skills and has a reputation for winning unusual and complex cases due to her tenacity and attention to detail. She has settled numerous multi-million pound claims for children and most recently secured £25 million for one young client, which is understood to be the second highest settlement ever in a claim of this nature.

Sally is recognised as a leading individual in her field, by legal guides Chambers and Legal 500 and appears in their "Hall of Fame" which described her as very experienced and adopting 'a tenacious but realistic approach to each case'. Chambers and Partners quotes interviewees as saying she is 'extremely hard-working and very efficient' and that 'clients love her'.

**Contact Sally by telephone: 0161 828 1996 or 07904 177391
or by email: sallyleonards@jmw.co.uk**



Case studies

Case One

JG is an 18 year old who was a pedestrian using a zebra crossing aged 15, when she was knocked over by an elderly driver, sustaining serious head injuries. The driver underwent criminal prosecution and pled guilty to driving without due care and attention. We are acting on her behalf in respect of a personal injury claim.

Initially post-accident, JG remained under hospital care for four months before being released home. She seemed to make a remarkable recovery before regressing and being admitted into a secure rehabilitation centre. Medical experts noted JG was suffering from many classic hallmarks of a brain injury victim and had higher executive functioning difficulties, including low mood, anxiety, impulsivity and poor planning.

The rehabilitation has since been fruitful and JG has now moved to supported living. We have put a Deputy in place from the JMW Court of Protection team and continue to work with a case manager and various experts to ensure her rehabilitation is properly managed. Liability is admitted and the defendants are funding accommodation, 24 hour care and educational support.

Case Two

LM went to the shops to buy cereal before school when he was 14 years old. Tragically, he ran into traffic from behind a bus and fell beneath a car. Unfortunately he sustained life changing injuries of the utmost severity, requiring a 9 month stay in Alder Hey, during which time the family were supported by the Child Brain Injury Trust, both in applying for grants and being rehoused.

The driver was not prosecuted, and his parents sought legal advice. The first solicitor refused to take the case on. The second started the case, but made no progress. The case was then transferred to Andy Lilley at JMW. He consulted an accident reconstruction expert and obtained a favourable report. A letter of claim was sent immediately and discussions started with the defendants, who denied liability. As the case progressed, they were able to persuade the defendants to fund a support package for the child including a move to a much more suitable property and to fund relevant therapies. A secondary victim claim was settled on behalf of LM's mother for the shock she suffered after coming upon the immediate aftermath of the accident.

Full medical evidence was obtained, which sadly showed that LM had a significantly impaired life expectancy. After the defendants made a number of unacceptable offers, a mediation was arranged shortly before a liability trial was due to take place, and the matter was settled for a lump sum of 6.35 million pounds which was duly approved by the Court.

The family are now in a position to buy their own house and implement a full care regime on the back of this settlement, and were delighted with the settlement.

Notes

My ABI Coordinator is:

Phone number:

Email address:

Professionals involved in with my child:

Questions I may need to ask:



We are a charity and we would love your support

The Child Brain Injury Trust is a charity and we rely on donations and fundraising to continue to deliver our services. If you are able to offer your support please contact us – details are found on the back cover.

Connect with us

If you would like advice, information
or to make a referral please visit
our website:
childbraininjurytrust.org.uk

Follow us at:

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 Child Brain Injury Trust

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