



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

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

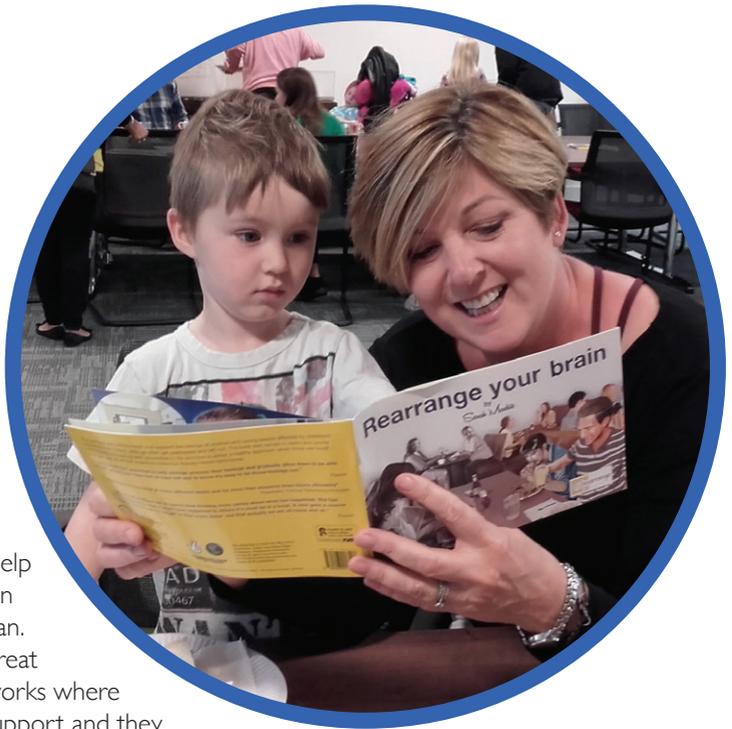
Once things are more settled, you may want to come along to one of our family support hubs where you can chat to other families going through a similar experience, or even to share your own experience and help other families. We also offer one to one support from our ABI Coordinator and sometimes have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

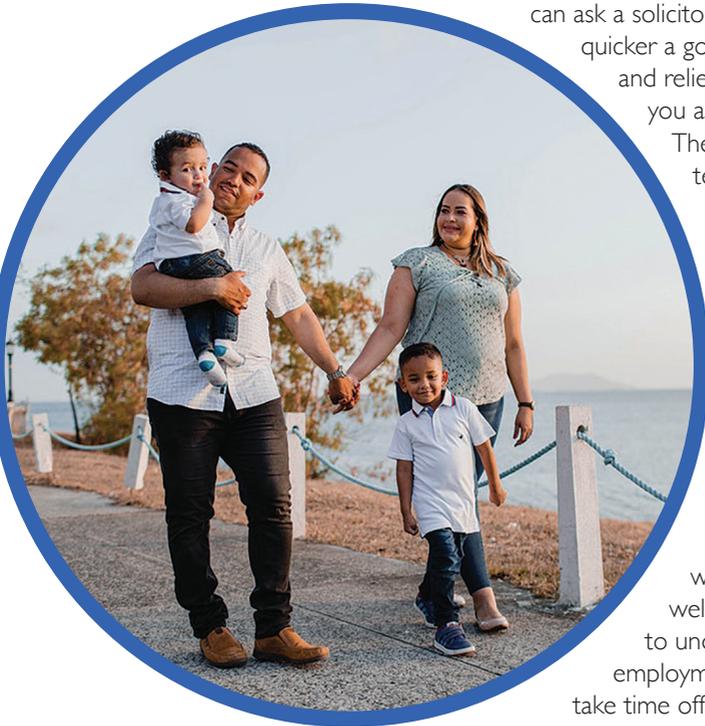
If your child was injured in an accident, the sooner you can ask a solicitor to investigate matters, the quicker a good legal expert can intervene and relieve some of the pressure that you are currently going through.

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 Leeds, Sheffield and the surrounding areas, our legal partner is Simpson Millar Solicitors 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



Rose Gibson, Partner

Rose joined Simpson Millar in 2016, but brought with her more than 20 years' of previous experience. Rose specialises in complex serious injury claims and has particular expertise in paediatric brain injuries. She loves travelling to meet her clients personally and always strives to be personable and approachable, as she believes client care to be key to a successful outcome. Rose was recommended by the Legal 500 2017 edition, which said: "Rose Gibson is an outstanding claimant Lawyer who will always go the extra mile to ensure that her clients achieve the best possible outcomes. Gibson is also known for her work representing families at Inquests."

Contact Rose: 0345 357 9382
Mobile 07584131931
rose.gibson@simpsonmillar.co.uk



David Thomas, Partner

David heads his own team of who represent private clients and membership organisations. David is recommended by the Legal 500 UK and Chambers Directory and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives and a Senior Litigator of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL). He is also a Legal Aid approved supervisor, member of the Law Society and AvMA Clinical Negligence Accreditation Panels, and an Accredited Mediator.

Contact David: 0345 357 9424
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Caroline Fox, Senior Associate Solicitor

Caroline joined Simpson Millar in July 2017 and has more than 15 years' experience in working on personal injury claims. She works hard to ensure that where possible, those in need secure immediate financial support by way of interim payments. Caroline takes her time to get to know her clients and their families so that she can consider their individual wishes and needs, making herself available to clients throughout their legal proceedings, providing them with peace of mind, and is passionate about representing people who have been through traumatic experiences.

Caroline has been recognised as a Rising Star in the Legal 500 2020 edition for her work in Personal Injury and in particular representing people who are the most seriously injured.

Contact Caroline: 0345 357 9384

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Case study



Alfie's story

We acted for an 8-week-old baby, Alfie, who was being driven by his mother in August 2016 in a car on the motorway. The car was side-swiped by a lorry, causing his mother's car to go into a spin and causing her car to hit the central reservation.

Alfie's mother was virtually unharmed, but it is thought that the airbags hit the baby's head, causing it to swell. Alfie required emergency brain surgery, which was not thought to be successful. His parents were prepared for his death, and organ donation was discussed.

He was put on a life support machine, which was turned off after he was given the last rites. Remarkably, Alfie started breathing again, and again, the family were told that he would still not survive. He began to swallow and breathe normally, defying all of the odds. It was thought that he was blind, but he began to focus in his right eye.

Alfie has now been discharged home and he continues to progress with just 25% brain activity. To date, he has defied most of the odds presented to him by medical staff and his progress is being monitored. We have actively engaged a Case Manager, Pete Sanderson of PSP Rehabilitation, at this stage and have arranged for early intervention to provide our client and his parents with access to the best possible care and support package. The rehabilitation provided to date has been groundbreaking, defying expectations on recovery.

Speaking of the help that his family has received, Alfie's dad Darren Cusick said: "Rose was recommended to me the day of Alfie's accident and came to see me the day after. She has been invaluable to Alfie's rehab, getting various specialists involved from the onset and also getting interim payments from the defendants to allow Alfie to get the right equipment to aid in Alfie's continuing rehabilitation. Nothing is too much bother for her and she is always available for advice, I can wholeheartedly recommend her."

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

Doc ID: 000
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