



## **This is your guide to our acquired brain injury services for children and young people across the east midlands.**

Your ABI Coordinator has given you this booklet 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/](https://childbraininjurytrust.org.uk/how-we-help/advice-information-referrals/) or by contacting your ABI Coordinator directly.

# What services can families expect?

## Direct support for families in hospital and at home

Our ABI 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 offer support to you whilst your child is in hospital and can help you to understand what is going on around you and who everybody is, sort out finances and accessing appropriate benefits, taking time off from work and importantly, how to return to school in a supported way.

They can speak to other family members for you and 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 the 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 provide 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. This will involve working with you to 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 ABI 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

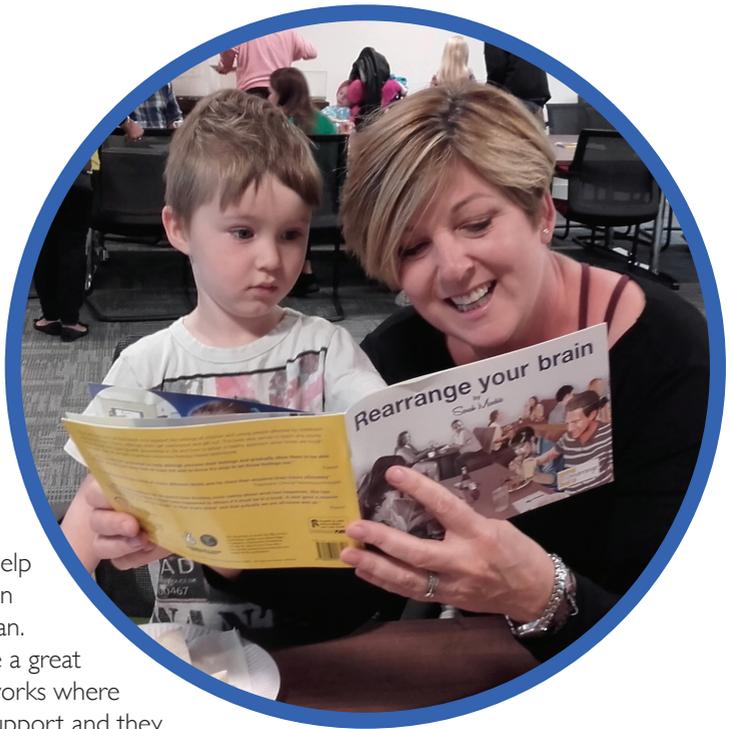
Once things are more settled, you may want to come along to one of our family support hubs where you can chat to other families going through a similar experience, or even to share your own experience and help other families. We also offer one to one support from our ABI Coordinator and sometimes have 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 help with staff awareness sessions, peer support and with Special Educational Needs support and we 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 the 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 ABI Coordinator will have some of these resources in the hospital and can bring some of them to you. You can download factsheets onto a tablet or smartphone on many different topics by checking out our website: [childbraininjurytrust.org.uk](http://childbraininjurytrust.org.uk). We can also print and send them to you on request.

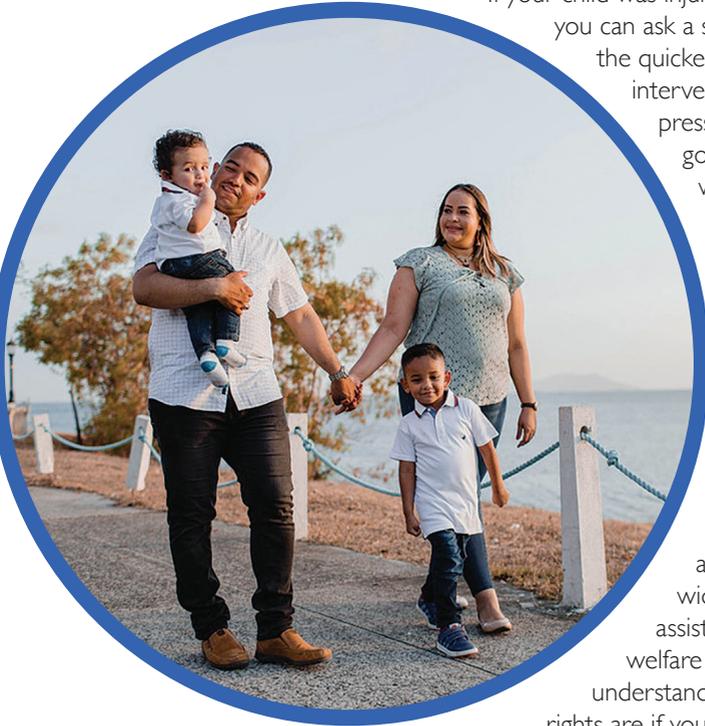
We facilitate Family Support Facebook Groups. Your ABI Coordinator will invite you to join, once we have your consent and when you're ready. The groups are a great place to chat, share information and hear about news and events going on in your area. See: [facebook.com/childbraininjurytrust](https://facebook.com/childbraininjurytrust)

## **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 in one of the live and interactive e-learning sessions we host regularly.

## Legal Support Service

When a brain injury happens, we understand that the 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 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 east midlands, our legal partner is FBC Manby Bowdler Solicitors and the firm and its expert team have extensive experience and expertise. Importantly, they 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 visit in: [childbraininjurytrust.org/legalsupportservice](https://childbraininjurytrust.org/legalsupportservice)

# Meet the team

## Susan Todhunter | Partner

Sue has over 25 years' experience dealing with challenging and complex catastrophic injury claims, specialising particularly in paediatric cases, and has successfully secured a number of multi-million pound settlements throughout her career.

Renowned for her empathetic approach, Sue provides ongoing support for her seriously injured clients and their families, and is focused on ensuring the successful outcome of every claim to assist in the funding of any long term care arrangements that may be required.

### Client Testimonial:

*'We were very satisfied with the friendly, caring service we received in our time of great trouble. I don't know how we would have coped without the support of Sue Todhunter.'*

### Memberships:

- Accredited Senior Litigator of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
- Law Society Personal Injury Panel
- Headway Solicitors Panel

**Contact Sue: 01902 393460 / 07740 444956**

**E: [susan.todhunter@fbcmb.co.uk](mailto:susan.todhunter@fbcmb.co.uk)**



## Tim Gray | Partner

Tim is an accomplished lawyer with over 25 years' experience in dealing with complex catastrophic injury claims often involving head and spinal injuries and cases of amputation.

Tim has secured several substantial claims for seriously injured claimants during recent years and is experienced in successfully dealing with the often difficult challenges that arise during the claims process, including the recovery of damages for care and the provision of statutory care services.

### Memberships:

- Accredited Senior Litigator of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
- Law Society Personal Injury Panel
- Spinal Injuries Association

**Contact Tim: 01902 392410 / 07736 109777**

**E: [tim.gray@fbcmb.co.uk](mailto:tim.gray@fbcmb.co.uk)**



# Case studies

## Case One

Tina is a 7 year old child who sustained a severe traumatic brain injury as a result of a fall from height when she was a toddler. The claim was defended and we represented the child and her family, taking the case to a full liability trial which we won 100% against the Defendant's Landlord.

Tina made a relatively good physical recovery but unfortunately suffers with fatigue, difficulties with concentration, memory and retaining information. She has challenging behaviour and speech difficulties.

To date, rehabilitation funded through the litigation has focussed on providing support to the family, engaging specialist therapies and providing advocacy to ensure adequate educational support and training for the teaching staff.

A professional Deputy is being appointed and our Court of Protection Team will work alongside us to ensure that Tina's rehabilitation is properly managed and funded.

We have obtained preliminary reports from medical experts and will be obtaining further reports, updating them as the case progresses.

## Case Two

Robert went to the local shop to buy cat food when he was 8 years old. Tragically, as he crossed the road opposite his home he was struck by a car, knocked down and was run over. He was initially taken to a local hospital before being transferred to a specialist Children's Hospital where he was admitted and received 3 months of inpatient care before being discharged home. Robert suffered very serious and life threatening injuries including a severe traumatic brain injury and significant facial scarring. His ability to walk was compromised, he struggled with fatigue and he was disinhibited in his behaviour.

The driver was not prosecuted and his parents sought legal advice. There were no witnesses and the defendants denied liability alleging that Robert had run into the road. They also alleged that the parents were partly to blame for lack of supervision which we rigorously denied. We instructed an expert in accident reconstruction and a medical expert to comment on the relationship between the speed of the vehicle and the injuries Robert suffered. These investigations helped us to argue that Robert was standing still or moving very slowly at the time he was knocked down. Proceedings were issued and shortly before the matter was due to go to a trial on liability the case was settled for 90%.

We immediately secured a significant interim payment which was used to employ a Brain Injury Case Manager; provide daily support and regular therapies to assist with mobility, speech and language and day to day function. Further funds were secured to cover the costs of altering the parent's property to provide a therapy room and quiet space.

A professional Deputy was appointed and the case was settled for a significant lump sum plus regular annual payments to pay for Robert's care and case management for life.

Robert was able to pass a number of GCSEs and complete A level studies and is currently being supported to complete a University Degree course.

# Notes

My ABI Coordinator is:

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Phone number:

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Email address:

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Professionals involved in with my child:

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Questions I may need to ask:

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## 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](http://childbraininjurytrust.org.uk)

Follow us at:

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 Child Brain Injury Trust

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