



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

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

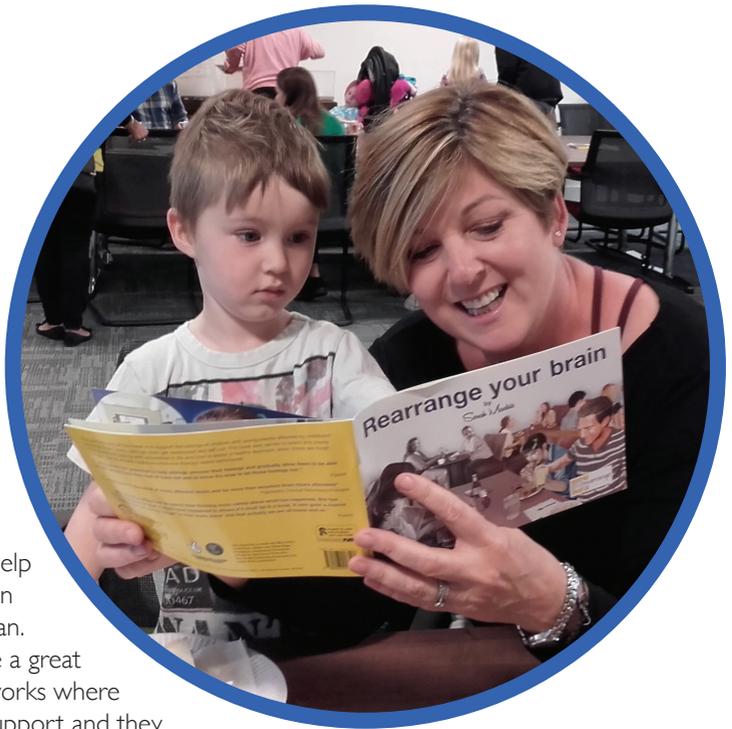
Once things are more settled, you may want to come along to one of our family support hubs where you can chat to other families going through a similar experience, or even to share your own experience and help other families. We also offer one to one support from our ABI Coordinator and sometimes have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

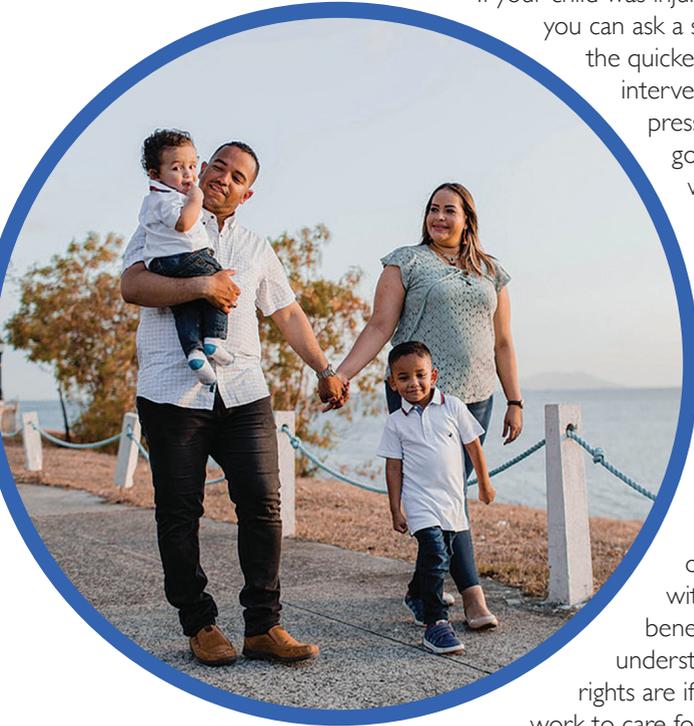
## Legal Support Service

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 London, our legal partners are ASB Aspire (now part of CL Medilaw), Bolt Burdon Kemp, Moore Barlow Solicitors and Shoosmiths Solicitors and the firms and their expert teams 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 visitin: [childbraininjurytrust.org/legalsupportservice](http://childbraininjurytrust.org/legalsupportservice)

## Meet the team

**asb***aspire*

*(now part of CL Medilaw)*

### **Jonathan Clement | Partner**

Jonathan is ranked as a Band 1 Lawyer by legal directory, Chambers & Partners, and is recognised for his expertise in handling brain injury cases. He is considered "an excellent lawyer with first-rate analytical skills" with sources commenting that "he is a real fighter for his clients in the most difficult and borderline cases." (Chambers & Partners 2020).

Jonathan is passionate about his work and the rights of his clients. His focus is on ensuring that they are sufficiently compensated for their injuries to facilitate their rehabilitation and provide security in the long-term. He regularly provides expert opinion and comments to the media.

Jonathan is an Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) accredited Brain Injury Specialist and an assessor for the scheme. He is also a member of the Law Society Accredited Scheme for Personal Injury.

**Contact Jonathan: 01293 861257**  
**E: [jonathan.clement@clmedilaw.co.uk](mailto:jonathan.clement@clmedilaw.co.uk)**



# Meet the team

## Cheryl Abrahams

Cheryl is a solicitor with over 17 years' experience in the field of personal injury and is a partner in the Child Brain Injury Team at Bolt Burdon Kemp, where she has worked since 2004.

Cheryl's passion lies with fighting for the rights of children with brain injuries and she was proud to become one of the founding members of the Child Brain Injury team at Bolt Burdon Kemp in 2015.

As a result of her work on behalf of children with brain injuries, Cheryl understands not only the devastation that can be caused to a family when a child suffers a brain injury, but also the worries and concerns that parents will have about their child's future and their ability to meet their child's complex needs.

Cheryl has also received acclaim over the years from the two independent guides to the legal profession, The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, who have said:

- "Cheryl Abrahams is noted by clients as being "really understanding and responsive." She is especially knowledgeable in the field of traumatic brain injury, and has extensive experience representing children in these cases." Chambers & Partners 2018
- [an] "incredibly experienced" solicitor: "She's got guts and she's got judgement – she's got everything you'd want in a lawyer:" – Chambers & Partners, 2017

**Contact Cheryl: 020 7288 4854 / 07912 248695**

**E: [CherylAbrahams@boltburdonkemp.co.uk](mailto:CherylAbrahams@boltburdonkemp.co.uk)**



# Meet the team

moore  
barlow

## Damian Horan

Damian is the Senior Partner and Head of Personal Injury at Moore Barlow. He is regarded as one of the UK's leading catastrophic personal injury lawyers. For over 20 years, Damian has specialised in representing clients who have sustained life changing injuries. He is passionate about the work he does and getting help and support for the children and families he represents. He enjoys meeting his clients and working as part of the team to achieve the best rehabilitation and independence possible.



In 2017 Damian was shortlisted for UK solicitor of the year by the Law Society. In addition, for many years Damian has been recognised by the independent directories Legal 500 and Chambers UK as a tier 1 solicitor.

Damian Horan is respected by peers and clients for his strong track record in representing clients with catastrophic injuries. As one source notes, *"he has always made sure he's there to talk to. He explains everything I need to know, and he's such a nice person"* - Chambers UK.

**Contact Damian: 023 8071 8054 / 07715 700902**

**E: [damian.horan@moorebarlow.com](mailto:damian.horan@moorebarlow.com)**

# Meet the team



## Denise Stephens

Denise is one of the country's leading specialist solicitors. She has over 24 years of dealing with highly complex brain and spinal injuries. In 2015 she achieved one of the highest court awards for a brain injured child. Denise is approachable, both kind and compassionate. Consistently ranked in Tier 1 of The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, Denise is described as a fearless advocate and is known for her cutting edge catastrophic work related to brain and spinal injury.



Any client coming to the team led by Denise has scored the jackpot will benefit not only from their depth and breadth of legal knowledge but also from unrivalled practical experience from a team prepared to go above and beyond to provide the client with what many have called a 'platinum service'.

**Contact Denise: 03700 86 6245 / 07714 138680**

**E: [denise.stephens@accesslegalsolicitors.co.uk](mailto:denise.stephens@accesslegalsolicitors.co.uk)**

## 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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## 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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 cbituk

 Child Brain Injury Trust

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