



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

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

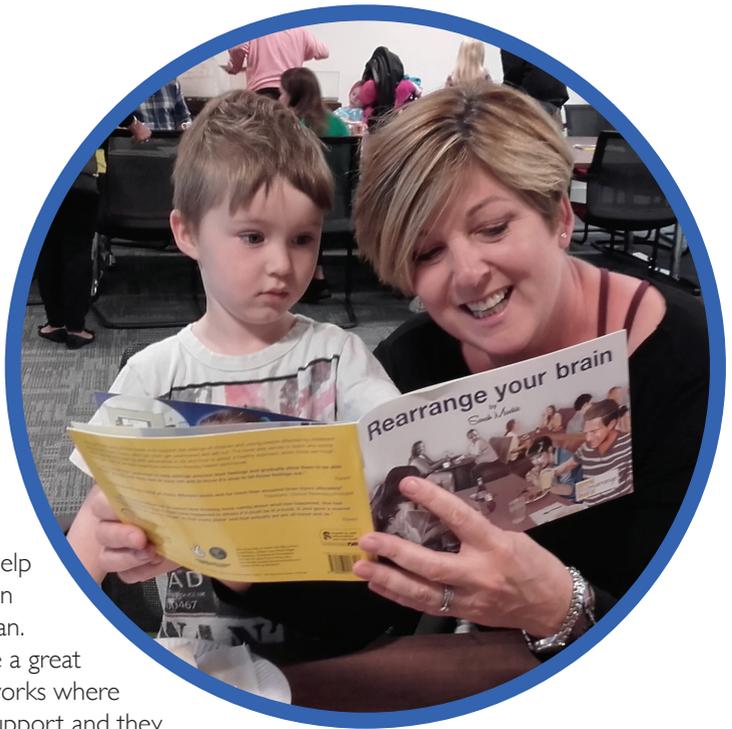
Once things are more settled, you may want to come along to one of our family support hubs where you can chat to other families going through a similar experience, or even to share your own experience and help other families. We also offer one to one support from our ABI Coordinator and sometimes have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

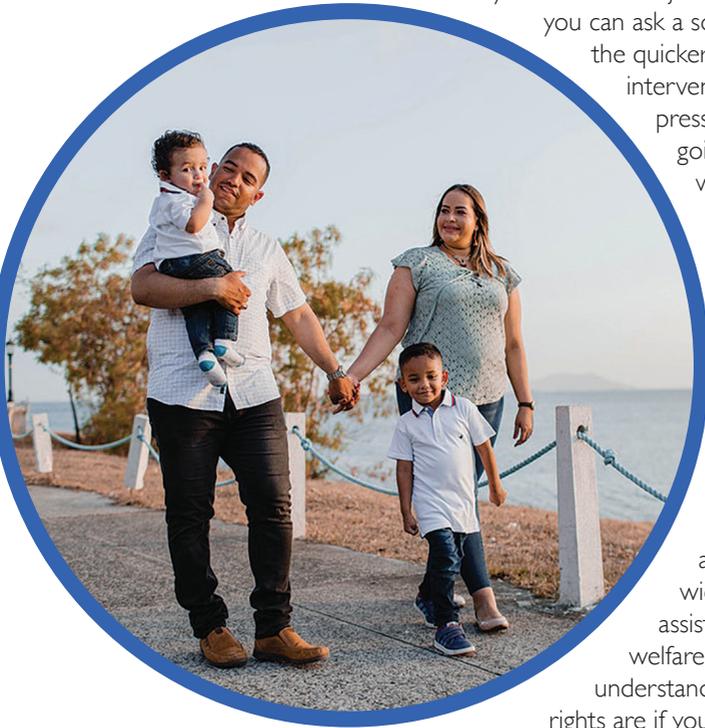
When a brain injury happens, we understand that the whole family is affected. We understand what you are going through and want your family to have the best support for your journey. It's really important to get independent advice from an expert legal professional who understands childhood acquired brain 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 Wales, our legal partner is Slater and Gordon Lawyers 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](http://childbraininjurytrust.org/legalsupportservice)



# Meet the team



## Yvonne Agnew

Yvonne has over 3 decades of experience in relation to assisting the most vulnerable in society to achieve ever increasing high value settlements thereby securing the future for both the client and their families. She frequently achieves the highest level of awards in Wales and the UK generally. Yvonne is known for her empathy as well as expertise and is regarded as someone who works tirelessly to secure high awards and therefore a better future for the most vulnerable amongst us.

Yvonne has a strong record of supporting those charities who in turn provide invaluable help and support to the families that she assists and is a keen advocate of the value of the assistance that these organisations provide. She is renowned for her tenacity in pursuing often difficult and complex litigation and achieving ever higher awards, this requires an in depth knowledge of the client and their family which Yvonne gains from achieving a close working relationship with them to ensure that all needs are recognised and recovered.

Yvonne frequently goes above and beyond to provide the contacts information and support that is required by families at what is a very difficult and stressful time for them.

**Contact Yvonne: 029 2192 1877**  
**E: [yvonne.agnew@slatertgordon.co.uk](mailto:yvonne.agnew@slatertgordon.co.uk)**



## Nicholas Collins – Principal Lawyer

Nicholas has over 20 years' experience in supporting and representing clients including children and young people who've suffered from severe brain injuries. His skills and experience give families confidence that they'll get the best possible service from their lawyer. Nicholas is recognised as an expert in his field and frequently provides seminars and lectures for charitable organisations on all aspects of personal injury law. He also deals with cases where clients have a Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) claim and supports them throughout the process.

Nicholas is a Recommended Lawyer in The Legal 500, 2017: "wealth of experience handling high-value personal injury cases."

Leading Individual in The Legal 500, 2020

**Contact Nicholas: 029 2192 1814**  
**E: [ngcollins@slatertgordon.co.uk](mailto:ngcollins@slatertgordon.co.uk)**



## Julia Reynolds

Julia is a lawyer with over two decades of experience in complicated, high value cases. Julia has a particular interest in working with charities who support babies and children with cerebral palsy or brain injury and is often described as a “super supporter” and charities say they “are delighted to work with her” and “excited to bring vital and life changing support to families in need”.

She regularly visits clients at home and spends time with them to develop relationships of trusts and confidence where clients feel that her empathetic style means that they can talk openly and honestly about all the day to day challenges and difficulties that they now encounter, and fears that they have for the future.

Julia sees her role as one which goes beyond legal representation and often refers her clients to in-house services such as benefits advisors, charity contacts, as well as other departments within her practice who can make sure that clients receive a comprehensive package to help make them feel supported and cared for. She works hard to ensure that clients feel that they have been heard so they can start to come to terms with their injuries.

**Contact Julia: 0292 192 1982**

**E: [julia.reynolds@slaterguson.co.uk](mailto:julia.reynolds@slaterguson.co.uk)**



# Case study

## Benjamin's story

When only a few months old Benjamin\* was being pushed in his pram by his mother across a zebra crossing when the pram was struck by a speeding car. Benjamin was thrown 25 metres down the road and ended up lying upside down suspended by the harness. He suffered multiple severe injuries, including a catastrophic brain injury.

Benjamin's parents contacted Slater and Gordon's experts who began working on his claim. They secured substantial interim payments to fund a thorough rehabilitation package for Benjamin which included neuro physiotherapy, neuro speech and language therapy, and occupational therapy. Slater and Gordon's experts also ensured an expert case manager and several support workers were employed to support Benjamin and his family during this difficult time.

As Benjamin was just a few months old, it was difficult to determine how his whole life would be affected by the injuries he had sustained. However, Slater and Gordon obtained expert medical evidence which demonstrated to the court, not only the effect his injuries would have on the rest of his future, but the support and care that would be needed in his future to enable him to live as independently as possible. As part of the claim they also ensured Benjamin had access to the specialist aids and equipment he would need throughout his life, including a bespoke wheelchair and sleep system as well as a suitable property which the family rented until one could be purchased which they did once the case settled.

After their successful negotiations, Slater and Gordon secured a £5million lump sum for Benjamin, plus annual periodical payments for the rest of his life, which resulted in a settlement in excess of £10million. This settlement will enable Benjamin and his family to get all the support and specialist equipment they need for his future.

\*Client's name has been changed for the purpose of anonymity.

# 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

Doc ID: 000  
V1  
June 2020



**Child Brain Injury Trust**  
Unit 1, Great Barn  
Baynards Green Farm  
Nr Bicester, Oxfordshire  
OX27 7SG

**Telephone:** 01869 341075  
**Email:** [office@cbituk.org](mailto:office@cbituk.org)



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