



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

## Family Counselling Service

We are able to refer families to our UK wide virtual Family Counselling Service. The service is provided by independent and qualified counsellors who can provide support to:

- Parents and carers
- Children and young adults with an ABI (11 yrs and over)
- Siblings of a young person with an ABI (11 yrs and over).

Families are able to access six to eight 50-minute counselling sessions (one session per week) without charge.

Please note you must have completed a referral form to access this service.



## CBIT in Hand

CBIT in Hand is a mobile app that you can download from the App Store or Google Play. CBIT in Hand provides personalised support guides suitable for families at different stages of the rehabilitation journey. It's full of useful information and advice via your 'mobile device' and something to recommend to your friends and family.

To download the App  
scan this QR code





## 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 west midlands, our legal partners are Anthony Collins Solicitors and Serious Injury Law Limited 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 visiting: [childbraininjurytrust.org/legalsupportservice](http://childbraininjurytrust.org/legalsupportservice).

# Meet the team

## Rankeshwar Batta

Rankeshwar is a partner and head of the personal injury department at Anthony Collins Solicitors. He handles a wide variety of cases with a focus on maximum severity/catastrophic injury claims. He is recommended in the Leading Lawyers Guides to outstanding lawyers, the Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners UK directories where he has been named as an “elite” lawyer with a national reputation and has been listed into the Legal 500 “Hall of Fame” for both his work. He is the only elite lawyer to be listed in this way for personal injury within the West Midlands.

He has been involved in extremely high value complex claims which have resulted in multi-million pound settlements or awards in brain injury cases including those that have proceeded to the Court of Appeal. Rankeshwar is also known for a compassionate, caring and friendly approach with his clients who are the centre of the case with the focus on rehabilitation, therapies, support packages and not just securing compensation.

**Contact Rankeshwar: 0121 212 7479**  
[rankeshwar.batta@anthonicollins.com](mailto:rankeshwar.batta@anthonicollins.com)



## Sarah Owen

Sarah is a personal injury solicitor at Anthony Collins Solicitors. She qualified in September 2019, after completing a training contract within the firm across a variety of departments gaining a sound grounding in several legal disciplines. Prior to this, she worked as a legal assistant in personal injury team.

Sarah is committed to providing an expert, fully supportive and holistic service for our clients and handles a variety of cases both independently and as part of a team, notably with the head of the department, Rankeshwar Batta on the most complex, maximum severity brain injury cases. She has developed a specialism in claims on behalf of children who bring claims arising out of their care and treatment by the Local Authority. She is praised for her hardworking but caring approach to her clients and colleagues alike.

**Contact Sarah: 0121 212 7479**  
[sarah.owen@anthonicollins.com](mailto:sarah.owen@anthonicollins.com)





Sarah was walking to school one morning when she arrived at a pelican crossing. She was 11 years old at the time and she ran out into the road whilst the lights were turning from green to red. The accident happened in a split second when a van driver drove in the outside lane and collided with Sarah causing a significant injury to her brain.

Liability was disputed by the driver's insurers on the basis that Sarah was of an age when she should have been able to comprehend how to utilise the road and that she was the author of her own misfortune. We investigated the claim on Sarah's behalf and obtained independent evidence from factual witnesses as well as a forensic accident reconstruction expert to examine the police collision report, photographs and other related evidence. Even though the police had not prosecuted the driver, we advised Sarah and her family that we could still pursue a civil claim for compensation. Ultimately, negotiations took place between the parties and a compromise was reached resulting in a multi-million pound settlement which will ensure Sarah receives care, rehabilitation and ongoing support and assistance for the rest of her life.

Aside from the compensation which gave Sarah and her family some security and options, we ensured that we supported Sarah with early rehabilitation and therapy, an adapted home as well as the appointment of a specialist brain injury case manager and a multidisciplinary team to include physiotherapy, psychology and speech and language therapy with the aim of maximising Sarah's abilities and potential at the earliest stage possible.

We drew upon our various areas of expertise including lawyers from our child care, mental health, Court of Protection, special education needs, community care and employment teams helping the family through an extremely difficult journey following the accident.

At the end of the case Sarah's mother said this about how we dealt with the case:

*"Our lives have been turned upside down as a result of what happened to Sarah. You were extremely supportive and understanding throughout the process, ensuring our every request and need was catered for. You fought hard against the driver's solicitors who denied liability at the outset, ensuring that we will now be able to look after Sarah properly for the rest of her life with all the support that she needs. As well as the Personal Injury Team, the other professionals working in the Company ensured that we were supported throughout including things like me being able to keep my job whilst looking after Sarah, ensuring that we had the right care and support from the local authority once Sarah was discharged home and proper support at school for Sarah through a one-to-one assistant – we would have none of this without you. Thank you - I will always be indebted for what you have done for us; you have changed our lives forever".*

# Meet the team

**SERIOUS/**  
INJURY LAW

## Ben Priestley

Ben is a solicitor and Head of Catastrophic Injury at Serious Injury Law Limited. He has been responsible for many of the firm's most complex and high-value cases over the last 20 years. He has represented numerous children in cases involving brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputation, and other serious injuries.

Ben's focus is rehabilitation and practical support for his clients, together with ensuring they achieve the best possible outcome in their claim.

He regularly concludes multi-million pound settlements on behalf of his clients, often involving a lump sum of damages combined with an annual payment for life. Ben also receives instructions in cases where a previous serious injury claim has been under-settled or rejected by the client's previous solicitors.

Ben is a Legal 500 "Leading Individual".

**Contact Ben: 07919 895 488**

**[bdp@seriouslaw.co.uk](mailto:bdp@seriouslaw.co.uk)**



## Tim Walters

Tim is a solicitor and the Managing Partner of Serious Injury Law Limited, with over 30 years of experience in personal injury law. Involved in many of the firm's most complex and high value cases, Tim has represented many children in cases involving all levels of brain injury, acquired as pedestrians, passengers and riders, amongst others, and when the child is a victim of a crime.

To ensure the best possible outcome for his clients, Tim is committed to delivering excellent client service through a focus on support, rehabilitation and cooperation.

Tim is also the head of Serious Injury Law Limited's Court of Protection department and a court appointed deputy. He represents a number of protected parties. He is responsible for their property and affairs and he manages tens of millions of pounds of protected party funds.

**Contact Tim: 07970 094751**

**[tbw@seriouslaw.co.uk](mailto:tbw@seriouslaw.co.uk)**



## Case study



"When my 13 year old son was hit by a car which caused serious injury to his brain, I was told by the Police that we probably wouldn't have a case to pursue compensation, but as times became more difficult financially because of issues arising from the injury, I contacted Serious Injury Law Limited via the Child Brain Injury Trust.

They quickly responded and Ben Priestley, one of the partners, came and visited myself and my family to help assess our situation and concluded that there was, in fact, a strong legal argument to make a claim. Ben negotiated with the car insurers, persuaded them to agree that they were liable, and secured interim payments so that my son could begin his rehabilitation journey.

The final agreement Ben negotiated was approved by the judge (£12.3million) – money that will go towards rebuilding my son's life and help pay for the level of care that he now needs.

I can't thank Serious Injury Law Limited and in particular Ben Priestley enough for all their hard work – the support and advice they have provided throughout the case has been invaluable and went well beyond the call of duty.'

# 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.

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

# Connect with us

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 [Child Brain Injury Trust](https://www.linkedin.com/company/child-brain-injury-trust)



## Child Brain Injury Trust

3 Field View  
Baynards Green Farm Trading Estate  
Baynards Green  
Nr Bicester  
Oxfordshire  
OX27 7SR

**Telephone:** 01869 341075

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

