



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

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

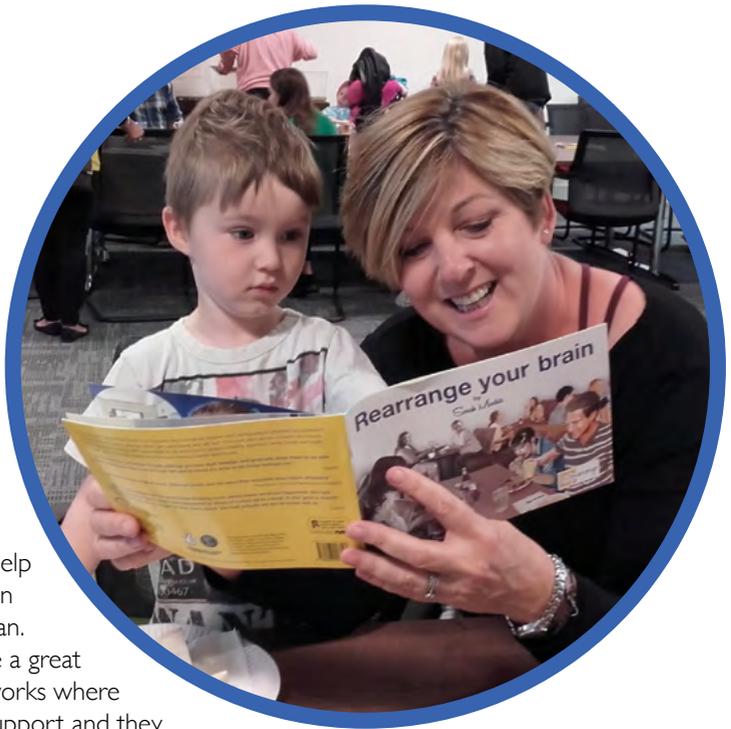
Once things are more settled, you may want to come along to one of our family support hubs where you can chat to other families going through a similar experience, or even to share your own experience and help other families. We also offer one to one support from our ABI Coordinator and sometimes have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

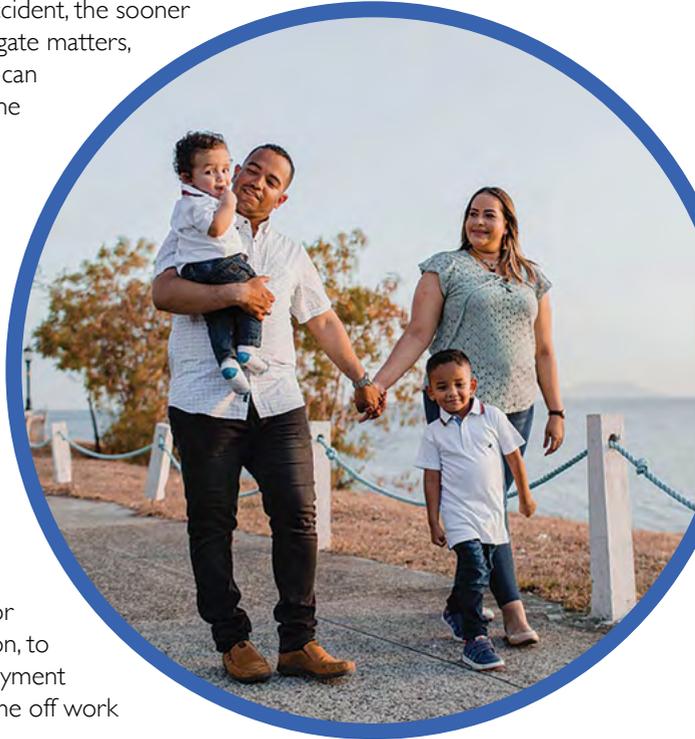


## Legal Support Service

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 Scotland, our legal partner is Anderson Strathern 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 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).

## About Anderson Strathern



We recognise that a brain injury can be a traumatic and sometimes overwhelming experience. We have a dedicated team who will approach your case with both expertise and empathy.

Our team is recognised as a leading practice in Scotland for personal injury cases and we have obtained millions of pounds in damages over the years. We have over 30 years of experience acting in some of the most complex cases, helping people who have suffered from catastrophic injury secure a stable financial future to support their individual needs.

We work with a wide range of independent experts who advise on every aspect of the impact of the injury. We're able to provide different funding options depending on your case and your personal circumstances.

As a full service law firm we can also advise on a number of other areas in relation to your claim. This includes wills and trusts to protect the money awarded. Our employment, family and education law specialists can assist with issues such as an extended period of absence from work or adjustments to working hours, establishing guardianships and your right to educational support. We can also offer investment advice through our asset management colleagues.

Your needs will always be at the forefront of our minds. Our commitment and expertise will allow us to stand shoulder to shoulder with you in fighting for the compensation that you and your family deserve.

**You can find out more about Anderson Strathern at [andersonstrathern.co.uk](http://andersonstrathern.co.uk)**

## Meet the team



### **Robbie Wilson | Director**

Robbie is a Director at Anderson Strathern and has specialised in the complex area of brain and catastrophic injury for over a decade. He has assisted many individuals and families in dealing with the aftermath of a catastrophic incident. Robbie works on some of the firm's most challenging and high value personal injury claims to recover many millions of pounds for his clients. His aim is always to make a difference to the lives of those who have been affected by child brain injury by securing a fair award and provide a stable financial future for them and their families.

Through his work with a number of charities, and those they support, Robbie is known for his compassionate and understanding nature as well as his tenacity in securing the best result for his clients.

Robbie is accredited as a specialist by the Law Society of Scotland and sits on the panel that decides the accreditation applications of other solicitors. Robbie is also recognised as a "Ranked Lawyer" and "Legal Individual" in the independent legal directories (Chambers and Legal 500).

**Contact Robbie: 0131 270 7941**

**Email: [robbie.wilson@andersonstrathern.co.uk](mailto:robbie.wilson@andersonstrathern.co.uk)**



## Meet the team

### **Gary Burton | Director**

A Director within our Healthcare, Public and Regulatory Team, Gary has extensive personal injury experience spanning over 10 years. He has recovered substantial damages on behalf of his clients in a wide variety of cases. His work leading our personal injury team includes supporting those affected by catastrophic injury, workplace accidents, accidents abroad and victims of assault.

Gary prides himself on his friendly, open and engaging manner while supporting clients and their families through difficult, stressful experiences. He is there for his clients for as long as needed.

Recognised in the legal directories as a "Rising Star", Gary works closely with counsel in cases raised in the Court of Session and appears regularly in the All Scotland Personal Injury Court at Edinburgh.

**Contact Gary: 0131 625 7256**

**Email: [gary.burton@andersonstrathern.co.uk](mailto:gary.burton@andersonstrathern.co.uk)**



## Isla's story

This complex case involves Isla\*, who suffered a skull fracture that resulted in a stroke, brain injury and loss of normal function down the right side of her body.

We acted on behalf of Isla's parents for over 15 years to secure a multi-million pound payment related to the skull fracture after proving it caused the stroke and brain injury.

Because this injury happened when Isla was very young we had to wait until she started to grow and develop to fully understand what the lifelong consequences of this injury were going to be. Over the years we instructed a large number of experts to assist with valuing the claim including a neurologist, care manager, aids & equipment specialist, employment and pension loss experts and therapists (including speech and language and physiotherapy) to fully understand what support Isla and her family would need and how much that was going to cost for the rest of her life. This was essential to allow for a full valuation of her case and all Isla would need for her future.

Our specialist knowledge of such cases, together with the medical experts we instructed and evidence gathered, meant we could prove to the court the medical impact on Isla as well as the care, support and therapies she would need for the rest of her life. This was with the ultimate goal of enabling Isla to live as independently as possible and so her family could fulfil the roles of parents/siblings/grandparents rather than also requiring to be carers, therapists and co-ordinators.

We also advised Isla's parents after the settlement of her claim. This included applying to the court for them to be legal guardians so they can continue to make decisions that are in Isla's best interests. We also advised on property and land purchases and construction projects so that accommodation to suit Isla's needs can be created. We were also able to protect the settlement money by advising on placing it within a Trust as well as acting as the professional trustee. Finally, through our asset management division we are able to advise on and implement financial planning and investments so Isla's settlement reaches its true value and ensure there are funds available to support her for the rest of her life.

*\* This case study has been fully anonymised to protect the identity of our clients.*

# Notes

My ABI Coordinator is:

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Phone number:

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Email address:

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Professionals involved 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

[childbraininjurytrust.org.uk](http://childbraininjurytrust.org.uk)  
[info@cbituk.org](mailto:info@cbituk.org)

Follow us at:

 @cbituk

 [childbraininjurytrust](https://www.facebook.com/childbraininjurytrust)

 [cbituk](https://www.instagram.com/cbituk)

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

Doc ID: 298  
V1  
Feb 2022



Scottish Office:  
(For correspondence only)

**Child Brain Injury Trust**  
101 Rose Street  
South Lane  
Edinburgh  
EH2 3JG

**Telephone:** 01313 572388

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



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