NAME OF ORGANISATION | Ref 337 Headway Darlington
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TITLE OF ROLE OR PROJECT | Increasing participation in social activities for people affected by acquired brain injury.
NAME OF SUPERVISOR | Angela Birleson Dip COT, M.Sc., PhD
LOCATION OF PLACEMENT | Headway Darlington and District office, The Northern Echo Arena, Neasham Rd, Darlington DL2 1DL.
HOURS OF WORK | The hours of work will be negotiable between the graduate and the supervisor. Occasionally an evening or some time at the weekend may be required.

Role Specification

**Please provide:**

**An overview of your organisation**

Headway Darlington & District is affiliated to Headway – the brain injury association and is a registered charity dedicated to providing continued support to survivors of an acquired brain injury (ABI) and their families to help them adjust to life after brain injury and rebuild their lives. 
Currently, we provide:
- Sessions to help members understand and cope with cognitive, emotional and behavioural difficulties following ABI.
- A variety of in-house and community-based activities to develop interests, self-confidence and social skills.
- Community based goal driven support to promote independence and access to community facilities;
- Specialist brain injury advocacy service.
- 1:1 counselling with a brain injury professional and family support sessions.
Future services will include the provision of respite for families and pre-vocational and vocation rehabilitation.
We are governed by a Board of Trustees and our service delivery team, all of whom dedicate their time on a voluntary basis, these include:
- Specialist neuro-occupational therapists,
- Specialist occupational psychologist,
- Guest tutors
- Volunteer support staff
We have permanent premises and office space at The Northern Echo Arena, Neasham Rd, Darlington DL2 1DL.

**Specific details of the project or work experience opportunity you are offering including project aims and a breakdown of activities**

Following an acquired brain injury (ABI), people frequently struggle to return to social and leisure activities (Wise et al 2010, Fleming et al 2011) with studies citing between 81% and 92% of people not returning to their pre-injury levels of social/leisure activities (Wise et al 2010, Bier et al 2009). Levels of satisfaction regarding this are low with
people reporting that their quality of life had deteriorated following their injury particularly in regard to leisure and social activities (Perroux et al 2013).

People require rehabilitation to improve participation and reintegrate in relevant leisure and social activities, however in the geographical area covered by Headway Darlington and District, this need is rarely addressed by statutory services. In a recent survey, members of Headway Darlington and District reported a considerable increase in their sedentary, solitary leisure activities following their ABI. Some members reported only spending one hour per week in active and sociable leisure activities. Occupational Therapists can provide specific rehabilitation to support people with re-engagement in relevant and beneficial leisure activities. Headway Darlington and District would like to include an occupational therapist on their service delivery team to provide this intervention.

This project would be a pilot to: • scope the intervention required. • identify community based facilities and activities that could be utilised by members • design a process for providing the intervention within the existing service delivery framework. • identify appropriate and robust assessment and outcome measures e.g. The Canadian Occupational Performance Measure. • trial the intervention with 5 members of Headway Darlington and District. • evaluate the intervention. • produce a report for the Board of Trustees • disseminate the results using a range of appropriate media and styles e.g. an article for OTNEWS, a paper at The College of Occupational Therapists’ Annual Conference, a presentation to members, a short report for other Headway branches.

Support will be given to the graduate in day to day supervision from a highly specialised and experienced occupational psychologist and through weekly supervision from a highly specialised and experienced occupational therapist for specific clinical and reporting activities.


### Essential qualifications needed (if any)

Graduate occupational therapist (B.Sc. or M.Sc.) who is state registered and HCPC registered

### Essential specialist skills or expertise (if any) – (for many roles with a technical dimension (e.g. software use) it is vital to be as specific as possible)

Any of the following areas of experience would be beneficial:
- Neurological practice – particularly acquired brain injury
- Community rehabilitation
- Community mental health

There will also be a demand for excellent communication skills that can be utilised in a wide range of situations i.e. with clients, families, professionals and with partnership organisations.
Planned outcomes for the graduate

The graduate will receive weekly supervision from a highly specialised occupational therapist, and day to day supervision from a highly specialised occupational psychologist. The graduate will have access to Headway UK’s Professionals’ Training range of courses. The graduate will leave the placement with skills and experience in the following domains:

- Applying the occupational therapy process in acquired brain injury rehabilitation
- Partnership development and partnership working
- Team working
- Supervision of staff
- Project development and evaluation
- Report production
- Marketing
- Governance
- Working in an emerging area – third sector
- Publishing and presenting

There is scope within the placement for the graduate to identify particular outcomes that he/she would like to achieve within the supervision framework

| Does the role demand a DBS check? | yes |