

Stephen Atkinson

Associate Neurological Physiotherapist

Based in: West Cumbria



Areas of expertise

Adult neurophysiotherapy
Elderly rehabilitation
Stroke
Multiple sclerosis
Acquired brain injury
Spinal cord injury
Guillain-Barré syndrome
Transverse myelitis
Chronic fatigue syndrome
Hereditary spastic paraplegia
Brain tumour
Ataxia
Diabetic neuropathy
Motor neurone disease
Syrigomyelia
Peripheral neuropathy
Foot drop
Postural management
Upper limb rehabilitation
Bespoke exercise and training programmes
Education and training

Qualifications

BSc Physiotherapy, Glasgow Caledonian University,
1993

Memberships & registrations

Health Professions Council (HCPC): PH46495
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP): 53384

Profile

Steve is a highly skilled neurological physiotherapist, with nearly 25 years' experience in the field of neurology, working in the NHS.

In addition to this role, he has worked as an associate specialist neurological physiotherapist with Neurocare since 2012, providing treatment to private patients with a range of neurological conditions, across West Cumbria.

Having worked in the NHS since he qualified in 1993, Steve has gained a wealth of experience across all specialities, developing through rotations until specialising in neurology in 2000.

A year working as a volunteer in India taught him to be adaptable, patient and innovative, and added further experience to his practice.

Steve has constantly looked for new challenges throughout his career, establishing a variety of new services across West Cumbria, and enjoys the different challenges and experiences presented by private practice.

Professional Pathway

- 2000 – Present** **Specialist Physiotherapist, Neurology, West Cumbria (currently North Cumbria Integrated Care)**
- 1999 – 2000** **Community Rehabilitation Project Lead, Karnataka, South India**
Working on behalf of voluntary services overseas.
- 1997 – 1999** **Senior I Physiotherapist, Medicine, Northampton General Hospital**
- 1995 – 1997** **Senior II Physiotherapy, Northampton General Hospital**
Completed rotations in orthopaedics and general medicine
- 1993 – 1995** **Rotational physiotherapist, Northampton General Hospital**

Development within current NHS role:

May 2006 – Present

Clinical lead / operational responsibilities for Neurological Physiotherapy across West Cumbria. The team provides physiotherapy across a range of sites, including the stroke unit, at the West Cumberland Hospital, and out-patient clinics at West Cumberland Hospital and Workington Community Hospital. Since 2013, this expanded to include Older People's physiotherapy in Copeland. Responsibilities now cover all neurological out-patient physiotherapy services across North Cumbria, including services in Copeland, Allerdale, Carlisle and Eden.

Approximately 24 hrs of clinical time/week allows Steve to maintain skills to a high standard, and he is a frequently used specialist resource across West Cumbria.

In April 2017, Steve's neurological and older people's physiotherapy team was awarded Cumbria Partnership's NHSFT 'Celebrating Success' Team of the Year award.

Worked alongside a variety of stakeholders across acute and community settings to establish an ESSD service in West Cumbria, which began work in 2019.

March 2011 – Present

Successfully bid for funding from the PCT to establish an FES service in west Cumbria. Purchased ten units, and ran a pilot study, to establish the clinical, and cost, effectiveness of this service.

May 2000 – August 2008

Lead Physiotherapist on the Younger Disabled Unit, West Cumberland Hospital

April 2002 – April 2004

Secondment to the Multiple Sclerosis Society as part of their 'Developing Flagship Services' programme. One of four services nationally to successfully bid to be part of this programme, they explored the establishment of specialist community services in a rural setting.

October 2005 – November 2019

Established, in conjunction with a colleague in Occupational Therapy, a North Cumbria-wide Chronic Fatigue Syndrome service, based in Keswick. This service then merged with other services to create a Persistent Physical Symptoms Service in April 2016, with main client groups being those within the new service. Steve took a lead role in CFS and FND, and taught in these areas to a variety of staff groups around the county. Increased knowledge and skills in the area of chronic pain, and developed an awareness of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, upon which the group programme is based.

Steve's recent training record is available on request.