

Guide to brain injury support

There are many organisations and individuals who can help with the range of issues your family needs to deal with after a brain injury. The list below covers some of the support services JMW is aware of, JMW teams that can assist with issues outside your clinical negligence case, and other useful organisations.

Therapy services

Various forms of therapy are crucial for patients with brain injuries. This includes:

- Physiotherapy, which helps to improve a patient's physical well-being and mobility;
- Occupational therapy, which helps patients to cope with day-to-day life and to regain independence by suggesting solutions to the challenges they face;
- Speech and language therapy which can help patients to develop or regain communication skills.

All of the above are available on the NHS and your GP can refer you for these services. However waiting times can be long and some families may have the means to pay privately for a therapist. For families who have a clinical negligence claim which is successful, any money spent on therapy can be claimed back.

In addition, current therapy sessions can be paid for using any interim compensation payments that are made by the defendant trust and the lifetime cost of future therapy will be factored into the final settlement.

To find an accredited therapist specialising in physiotherapy, occupational therapy or speech language therapy please use the national registers below.

[Chartered Society of Physiotherapists](#)

[The Royal College of Occupational Therapists](#)

[Association of Independent Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practice](#)

Conductive education

Children with cerebral palsy and other brain injuries can benefit greatly from very specialised therapy called conductive education. Conductive education can help children to achieve developmental milestones their families may have been told would not be possible. JMW has links with organisations that can provide conductive education for children and several of our clients with cerebral palsy have benefited from this form of therapy.

Based in Mawdesley in West Lancashire, JMW has, for a number of years, supported [Rainbow Hub](#), which provides conductive education for children with cerebral palsy and other life-limiting conditions. Children who are assessed as having the potential to benefit from the Rainbow Hub programme can be helped to improve mobility and develop language skills.

There are a number of centres offering conductive education across the UK. For further details see <https://www.cepeg.org.uk/resources/centres>.

For families based in the South of England, [Bobath Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy](#) is a therapy and training centre specialising in cerebral palsy. Bobath offers an early intervention scheme for babies to start them on their development journey as soon as possible.

For more information about Rainbow Hub and Bobath please visit their websites or ask your solicitor at JMW for an introduction.

Support

A brain injury can take a huge emotional and psychological toll on both the patient and those closest to them. Talking to someone who knows exactly what you are going through can have a hugely positive impact.

JMW is in contact with numerous support services that operate helplines providing both emotional and practical assistance following a diagnosis of a brain injury.

[The Child Brain Injury Trust](#)

[The Stroke Association](#)

[Headway](#)

[Cerebra](#)

[Scope](#)

Education

For children and young people who have suffered a brain injury, accessing education can be challenging. Nevertheless, local authorities have an obligation to ensure any child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has access to appropriate education.

This can include ensuring they have extra help and support in school.

Many of the children with brain injuries that JMW represents have an education, health and care plan (EHCP) because their needs are more complex.

[This page on the Gov.uk website](#) has more information about SEND support and EHC plans and links to other areas of interest such as school admissions.

For legal issues relating to education, including challenging decisions made about your child's education, [Oliver Wright at JMW Solicitors](#) can help. He can be contacted on the details below.



YOUR CONTACT

Oliver Wright, Partner

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Health, social care and transport

Your local NHS services and council are responsible for providing health, social care and help with specialist transport needs. [This section of the NHS website](#) has some useful links and information.

You are entitled to an assessment of your care needs from your local authority which may result in the provision of care assistance.

JMW's Oliver Wright also deals with legal issues relating to health, social care and transport provision by the NHS and local authorities if you feel you are not receiving the support you are entitled to.

If you have a successful clinical negligence claim it will be possible to fund some, if not all, of your health, care and transport requirements on a private basis. This will help to avoid lengthy waiting times.

Financial planning

If you, or your child, has a successful clinical negligence claim, and are awarded a significant compensation settlement to cover the cost of a lifetime of care and lost earnings, then you will require sound financial advice.

JMW works with a number of independent financial

advisors with vast experience of advising families who have been awarded a compensation settlement.

The companies we regularly refer clients to include:

[Pareto Financial Planning](#)

[Nestor Independent Financial Advice](#)

[Personal Financial Planning](#)

Planning for your family's future

Ensuring your family's financial security is important for everyone but especially so if there are complex needs to consider or if the ability to work has been lost.

[Paul Gotch](#), a partner in JMW's private client team, can help with a range of issues that your family may need to take care of to provide security now and in the future.

This includes:

- Wills, trusts and estate planning
- Probate issues
- Lasting powers of attorney
- Personal injury trusts



YOUR CONTACT
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Court of Protection and Deputyship

The Court of Protection is a court established through the Mental Capacity Act and is in place to make decisions about what is in the 'best interests' of a person who lacks capacity with regard to their:

- Personal welfare; and/or
- Property and affairs

Following a declaration that a person lacks capacity to make decisions themselves, the court has the power to:

- Make a decision (or decisions) on behalf of the person; or
- Appoint a deputy to make decisions

The court can also deal with any disagreements between parties.

JMW has a Court of Protection team which is led by partner [Megan Christie-Copeland](#). Megan has over 10 years' experience managing very complex Deputyship and Personal Injury Trusts, she also works with clients and their support network who have sustained brain injuries, helping them move forward where possible with their lives.

JMW's Court of Protection team is also able to advise family deputies who are dealing with the court in applications such as statutory wills and approval of family care payments.



YOUR CONTACT
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Conveyancing

Most patients with a severe brain injury will require specialist housing to help promote their safety and independence at home. JMW has an in-house conveyancing team which can deal with the legalities of a house purchase arising from a compensation settlement. The team is led by [Andrew Garvie](#).



YOUR CONTACT
Andrew Garvie, Partner
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Employment

Employment issues can arise when a family member suddenly needs to take on the role of a carer, or if you are unable to return to work following a brain injury. JMW has a specialist employment team who can advise you on how to tackle the employment challenges you now face. The team is led by highly-respected employment solicitor [Paul Chamberlain](#).



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