Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability

Measuring outcomes in music therapy for people with a neuro-disability

Tuesday 1 December 2026

Programme

09:00	**Registration and refreshments**
09.30	**Introduction** Alice Hardy, *Clinical Lead for Music Therapist, RHN*
09.45	**Keynote: An evidenced-based system in practise: Measuring outcomes in neurologic music therapy** Elizabeth Nightingale, *Founder of Nightingale NMT™, Expert Witness, Neurologic Music Therapy® Fellow*
10.45	**Arithmophobia: Taking the myth out of the math and finding comfort in Evidence Based Practice"** Amanda Thorpe, *Music Therapist, RHN*
11.30	**Refreshment break**
11.50	**A Journey Through Music: Measuring Change from PDOC to Function** Ben Jones and Cathal Nolan, *Music Therapists, RHN*
12.30	**Musical improv: interactive workshop** Cathal Nolan, *Music Therapist, RHN*
12.45	**Lunch break**
13.45	**Keynote: Outcome measurement: What questions should music therapists be asking?** Professor Giogos Tsiris, *Professor in Music Therapy in the Occupational Therapy & Arts Therapies Division, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh*
14.45	**Breakout groups: outcome measures in action** 1. Cognitive and emotional health Dr Holly Hurn, *Clinical Psychologist, RHN* 2. Speech and language outcomes Zoe Gilbertson, *Advanced Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, RHN* 3. Motor function outcomes Rebecca Derham, *Senior Occupational Thearpist, RHN* Mhairi Bartlett, *Physiotherapist, RHN*
14.45	**Break**

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16.00 **Panel discussion**

Alice Hardy (Chair), *Clinical Lead for Music Therapist, RHN*
Dr Sarah Crawford, *Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist, RHN*
Michael Jenkins, *Music Therapist, RHN*
Ben Jones, *Music Therapist, RHN*
Elizabeth Nightingale, *Founder of Nightingale NMT™, Expert Witness, Neurologic Music Therapy® Fellow*
Cathal Nolan, *Music Therapist, RHN*
Giorgos Tsiris, *Professor in Music Therapy in the Occupational Therapy & Arts Therapies Division, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh*

16.30 **Close**

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A bit about our speakers

Dr Stephen Ashford
Associate Professor (Reader) and Consultant Physiotherapist
Regional Hyper-acute Rehabilitation Unit, London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust & King's College London, Department of Palliative Care, Policy and Rehabilitation, London, UK

Stephen has incorporated clinical practice with research and implementation science to develop research outputs which are clinically relevant and applied to people following stroke and acquired brain injury. He delivers the regional specialised outreach service for North West London and surrounding counties, including the management of spasticity. He has developed with local, national and international colleagues a programme of research, which builds strongly on his clinical expertise in management of spasticity and the physical aspects of neurological rehabilitation. The programme has incorporated development of outcome evaluation using Goal Attainment Scaling in conjunction with measures such as the Arm and Leg Activity measures, with robust psychometric testing. Stephen edited the national guidelines on spasticity management published in 2018 by the Royal College of Physicians, UK.

Stephen was awarded a Fellowship of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists In Neurorehabilitation, UK in 2016 and of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, UK in 2018. He became Senior Clinical Lecturer and Hon. Associate Professor (University College London) in June 2019 at the Centre for Nursing, Midwifery and Allied health led Research, University College London Hospitals. He is now Hon. Associate Professor (King's College London) and Consultant physiotherapist (London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust) and clinical research lead for Nurses Midwives and Allied Health Professionals across the organisation.

Stephen is currently working on research projects in arm and leg spasticity, rehabilitation goal setting and treatment planning for people with spasticity, clinician (physiotherapy, medical and other MDT members) practice development for spasticity management and the wider application of goal setting and measurement tools in rehabilitation (including in palliative care). He currently holds an NIHR Senior Clinical Practitioner Researcher Award.

Jessica Blake
NIHR ARC East of England Research Fellow

Jessica Blake is an Occupational Therapist and NIHR ARC East of England Research Fellow. She specialises in the rehabilitation of people with complex needs following brain injury in subacute care. Jessica has led and published several research projects exploring family expectations of recovery and how these are addressed in healthcare settings. Her work aims to strengthen relationships between healthcare professionals and families, as this is likely to improve rehabilitation experiences and outcomes.

Dr Lloyd Bradley
Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine, RHN

Dr Lloyd Bradley is a consultant in rehabilitation medicine. He has worked at the RHN for just over a year now having previously worked in specialist neurorehabilitation in Sussex. He has a PhD in molecular biology and genetics from the University of London and underwent medical training in London and the East of England. He has previously been on NICE guideline committees for the management of multiple sclerosis and adult cerebral palsy and worked with NCEPOD in developing evaluations of transitional care from paediatric to adult services. Dr Bradley's current research interests include looking at prescribing practices in individuals with acquired brain injury, factors impacting on outcomes of specialist rehabilitation and staff experiences in long term care working with patients with disorders of consciousness.

Brenda Berge
Leisure and Family Services Manager, RHN

Brenda is the Leisure and Family Services Manager at RHN, where she leads programs and initiatives that strengthen individuals, families, and communities through inclusive, person-centred services. With extensive experience in leisure, recreation, and family support, Brenda is passionate about creating opportunities that enhance quality of life, promote meaningful engagement, and foster belonging for people of all ages and abilities.

Throughout her career, Brenda has worked collaboratively with community partners, service providers, and families to develop innovative programs that respond to evolving community needs. Her leadership is grounded in a commitment to accessibility, collaboration, and continuous improvement, ensuring that services are responsive, impactful, and sustainable.

Dr Sarah Crawford
Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist, RHN

Dr Sarah Crawford is a Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability in Putney. She is the professional lead for Clinical Psychology within the Brain Injury Service, an NHS England funded Level 1 neuro-rehabilitation service for patients with complex neuro-disability. Dr Crawford has a particular interest in supporting families, and chaired the RHN's steering group for improving services for our patients' and residents' families and friends.

She has previously worked in the NHS, providing specialist outpatient neuropsychological assessments. She has also worked as a Clinical Psychologist within other specialist neuro-rehabilitation settings, including a transitional rehabilitation service and a unit for patients with severe challenging behaviour secondary to brain injury.

Dr Crawford has a BA degree in Experimental Psychology from the University of Oxford, a PhD in Psychology from University College London, and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Kings College London. She has completed post-doctoral training in clinical neuropsychology and is listed on the British Psychological Society's Specialist Register of Clinical Neuropsychologists.

Rosie Hawker MSc
Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist in Neurosciences and Neuro Trauma, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham
Melanie Shaw
Speech and Language Therapist – Team Lead Specialist Rehab Service, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham

Rosie and Mel established a multi-professional working group of therapists with a specialist interest in the PDOC patient group. They both have over 10 years' experience working with patients in the acute stages of disorders of consciousness at a Major Trauma Centre in Birmingham.

Dr Ejatu Jalloh
Clinical and Research Fellow, RHN

Dr Ejatu Jalloh is a Clinical and Research Fellow at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability (RHN), working within the Brain Injury Service, including with patients in PDOC, and the Neurobehavioural Service. Her clinical and research work focuses on neurorehabilitation, with a particular interest in factors that influence patient outcomes and PDOC assessment. Her current research explores the effect of primary language on functional outcomes and emergence from PDOC, with the aim of improving equitable assessment and informing clinical decision-making.

Erin Probert

Clinical Lead Speech and Language Therapist, RHN

Erin has been Clinical Lead Speech & Language Therapist for the Continuing Care service at RHN since 2021, however has been at RHN since 2013. Erin has a strong interest in complex mental capacity assessments and best interests decision making, supporting patient autonomy and advocacy, future care planning for people with progressive neurological disorders, and neuro-palliative care.

Erin is passionate about optimising quality of life for people with severe brain injuries. Some of her time is currently seconded into the role of 'CANH in PDOC Lead', where she is supporting the clinical teams with best interests decision making about Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration for patients in PDOC at RHN.

Claire Rae
Advanced Speech & Language Therapist (Acute Trauma & Rehabilitation), Royal Stoke University Hospital

Claire Rae is an Advanced Speech and Language Therapist, leading the SLT team on the Hyper Acute Rehabilitation Unit embedded within the Royal Stoke Major Trauma Centre. Claire has been working in PDOC in acute and community settings for over 10 years, and specialises in the acute stages of rehabilitation following brain injury.

Aideen Steed
Principal Physiotherapist / Clinical Specialist, Regional Hyper-acute Rehabilitation Unit, Inpatient and Outreach Service, Northwick Park Hospital

Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist and Professional Lead for Physiotherapy within the Regional Hyper-Acute Rehabilitation Unit at London Northwest University Healthcare NHS Trust. She also works within the Trust's Outreach Service, specialising in spasticity management and the rehabilitation of individuals with complex physical disabilities.

Aideen holds an MSc in Neurorehabilitation and combines advanced clinical practice with a strong commitment to research, service development, and education. Her clinical and research interests focus on the assessment and management of spasticity, contracture prevention and treatment, and pain assessment in individuals with complex neurological disability. She has contributed to the evidence base in these fields through peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations and collaborative research projects. Her current research activities include upper and lower limb spasticity rehabilitation, goal setting and outcome measurement within community-based specialist services. Alongside her clinical and academic work, Aideen is actively involved in professional education and workforce development. She delivers national teaching across the UK on rehabilitation outcome measures, splinting and orthotic management. Internationally, she has contributed to delivering training programmes in Myanmar, India, and Nepal, supporting the development of clinical practice and rehabilitation capacity in low-resource settings. Aideen also serves as a Trustee of the Injured Players Foundation, the Rugby Football Union's charitable organisation supporting individuals who sustain catastrophic spinal cord or traumatic brain injuries while playing rugby.

Through her clinical leadership, research, teaching, and voluntary work, she is committed to advancing neurorehabilitation and improving outcomes for people living with complex neurological conditions.

Shona Thompson
Advanced Physiotherapist, Royal Stoke Major Trauma Centre

Shona Thompson is an Advanced Physiotherapist, leading the Physiotherapy team on the Hyper Acute Rehabilitation Unit embedded within the Royal Stoke Major Trauma Centre. Shona has been

working in PDOC in acute setting alongside the MDT for over 10 years, and specialises in the acute stages of rehabilitation following brain injury and tracheostomy weaning within this patient group.