

Head Orthoptist

Nicola Turner
Orthoptics



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I have both a clinical and leadership role. I lead a team of 7 orthoptists and 3 orthoptic assistants. My clinical role involves assessing, diagnosing and treating a variety of patients, working cooperatively with consultant ophthalmologists. I also work closely with other members of the wider ophthalmology team including ophthalmologists, optometrists and ophthalmic nurses. As part of the orthoptic team, I deliver a variety of orthoptic services to children, young people and adults across a wide geographical area within Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

From a clinical perspective, every day is different. The variety of cases and the ability to make a difference - whether this be treating a child with poor vision or an adult with double vision, are both equally rewarding. I also enjoy leading and motivating my team. I work Monday-Friday; therefore, I am able to enjoy a good work-life balance.

I completed a three-year diploma in orthoptics which has now been superseded by an orthoptic degree course held at three universities across the UK, namely Sheffield, Liverpool and Glasgow. I have since completed a Masters Module in Leadership and Level 5 Institute of Leadership and Management Certificate.

I initially started my orthoptic career in Newport, 1985. In 2000, after successfully applying for an employment break, I spent a period of eight years working overseas in Bermuda. On return to the UK, I secured a post as a specialist orthoptist in Llantrisant, where I was based for eight years and this is where I began my leadership and management training. I then returned to Newport after gaining an advanced orthoptic post and a few years later, I was successful in obtaining my current role as Head Orthoptist.



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