

The MS Nurse Practitioner for the Gosport and Fareham Team area is **Simon Ghafur:**

I qualified as an Occupational Therapist (OT) in 2004 and have worked mainly in the community setting with a wide range of patients, conditions and age range.

My interest in MS stems from my friendships with several people with MS, experiencing some of the issues they have faced and realising that, as an OT, I could play a part in helping people with MS to manage some of the issues they face.

As my experience of working with people with MS grew, I began to be seen as a resource for other professionals to call upon in their work with people with MS. In order to better support both other professionals and people with MS, and their support networks, I felt that I needed to gain a more detailed knowledge of MS and, to this end, I completed a Post Graduate Certificate in MS Practice (Leeds University Masters Course) in 2010.

I have worked closely with both Shelia Chartres and Annabella Pearce, MS Specialist Nurses, mainly in the Havant and Waterlooville Community Areas, and have been actively involved with MS training, support sessions, Community Groups and MS services.

I am excited at the opportunities that have arisen with the development of the MS Practitioner post. Both Annabella and I feel strongly that our complimentary professional skills will lead to a more holistic service for people with MS.