

Welcome to your Northern and Yorkshire region newsletter!

We're delighted to offer funded places for conference for 2024, read on to find out more and for an update on region plans for 2024.

Our member features

Would you like an opportunity to attend RCOT Annual Conference with a funded place?

We are offering members the opportunity to receive one of ten funded places to attend [RCOT Annual Conference](#) virtually on 12 and 13 June 2024.

If you would like a chance to receive a ticket, you must:

- Be a member of RCOT and live, work or study within the Northern and Yorkshire region,
- Be available to attend Annual Conference on 12 and 13 June 2024,
- Be willing to write a short reflection on your experience of attending conference to share with members in our newsletter.

To be considered for a ticket, please email chair.northernyorkshire_volunteer@rcot.co.uk with your name, RCOT membership number and address of where you live, work or study that is within our region on or before 29 April 2024. Winners will be selected at random and notified shortly after this date.

Our news

Committee update



We'd like to say a huge thanks to Haley Whelpton (pictured along with the rest of the committee at our event last May) who finished her term on the Committee last year. Hayley was our previous Chair and a great support to the Committee. We wish Haley all the very best wishes.

We've had some changes in the Committee and are delighted to say that Rachel Booth-Gardiner has moved into the Chair role, Paul Wilkinson is our Vice-Chair, Sarah Wigham is Secretary and Emma Crowcroft is our

Treasurer. We have several co-opted members including Helen Tomes, retired member rep, Sushil Munakhya, BAOT Unison rep, Ruth Ferguson, HEI link and Dominic Learwood, co-opted member.

If you would like to know more about the committee or get involved, please [get in touch](#).

Comeback learning event

Last May, we held a networking and learning event for members in York, that included a guest presentation from RCOT Chair of Council, Odeth Richardson. We also facilitated workshops that focused on equity diversity and belonging, and building on leadership.

It reserved some great feedback including:

'This was a really well structured day, it was fantastic to be a F2F meeting which allowed networking which is something that is not as easy to do on Teams. it was great to have the day structured around 2 very topical focus areas. it was also great to have RCOT at the event to make that connection with our professional body. The venue was also great and easy to get too'.



'Really enjoyed and took a lot from the leadership workshop and enjoyed the discussions and prompted questions'.

'Thank you for arranging such a great day, it was so good to have time to meet peers and share view points from a wide range of professionals'.

'It was a great event and we have had an absence of networking opportunities, sometimes just the networking is a great advantage to reach out to people. I think there is some way to go as my perception of the College is still rather 'stuffy' and inaccessible. In my role I'm in a leadership position but often feel the clinical / specialisms are prioritised more. This was a good step in breaking down barriers and creating more inclusive context'.

We hope you enjoyed the event as much as we enjoyed organising it.

Region plans for 2024

This year, there are many changes to how RCOT operates and what they offer to their membership in the future. As a region, we have been working closely with RCOT to help shape these changes. In the next few months, we will be invited to test and learn the new communities platform that will launch to members next year. The committee has been focusing its time on this, so we have not planned any networking events this year. However, we would love to hear from you about what kind of events you would like the region to plan next year.

Since we are not planning any events this year, we have chosen to fund ten tickets for members to attend RCOT annual conference. See the member features section for more information on this.

News from across RCOT

Strengthening our governance to safeguard our future

We have big ambitions for the profession, and to be able to deliver on them, we need our governance to be fit for purpose and future-proof. Council is reviewing our governance, looking at the rules and systems that guide how we're run, to ensure we follow good practice, are legally compliant and best placed to make informed business decisions.

[Read about it on our new governance hub](#) or meet Council members at a drop-in and they'll talk you through it and answer your questions.

Together, let's make a bigger impact

We launched our first ever [Workforce Strategy](#) in March. It creates a path towards our vision for an expanded occupational therapy workforce – positioned to have maximum impact in improving people’s health and quality of life by 2035. Through our strategy, we’ll equip you with the skills and resources to be a leader, embrace innovation and champion health equity for all.

Read the [strategy](#) today and get involved.

Annual Conference 2024 tickets are open

Our two-day online event – #RCOT2024 – will take place on **Wednesday 12–Thursday 13 June 2024**. You’ll hear strong opinions, get into the debates that matter and discover high-level unique knowledge, perspectives and vision. It’s a showcase for occupational therapy, bringing together members and non-members from across the profession.

Snap up your ticket to our Annual Conference at our best price – before our express discount ends on 16 May 2024. [Find out more and book your ticket](#).

Stay in touch

You can stay up to date with us on social media – follow us on [X \(previously Twitter\)](#) and [Facebook](#). You can also contact us at rcot.northernandyorkshire@rcot.co.uk.