

Terms of reference: Social care strategic leads network

Statement:

Over the last few years Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT) has become aware of an increasing number of local authorities with the title of principal occupational therapist, working in strategic positions and alongside principal social workers. Council's appointing principal occupational therapists sends out a very clear message about the importance that occupational therapists have within the social care workforce. RCOT is aware however that there are many other local authorities across the UK that have occupational therapists in similar positions, carrying out similar roles but do not have the title of principal.

The principal and occupational therapy leads within adult and children's social care provide vital strategic development and professional support to the workforce. Their leadership supports the occupational therapy workforce in implementing key social care policy and legislation. This relates to needs assessment, prevention and wellbeing, expertise in housing, carers needs, safeguarding, transition and risk management. Working alongside the principal social workers/or equivalent, they provide a vital link between frontline staff and the senior leadership team within their local authority. They also work alongside partners in the housing, NHS and the voluntary sector to develop good practice, continuous improvement and the best possible care for people in receipt of services.

Social care strategic leads network purpose:

The aim of the network is to evidence and promote the role, benefits and impact of strategic occupational therapy leads within social care. The network is virtual, but RCOT may organise one off meetings to discuss and address on specific issues.

Occupational therapy leads can be added to the network list if they:

- Are members of RCOT.
- Work within strategic positions in a local authority.
- Work alongside principal social workers/or equivalent on implementation of best practice and workforce development.
- Hold responsibility for development of CPD and research for the occupational therapy workforce.
- Hold responsibility for strategic links with local partners in the NHS, housing and voluntary sector.

In line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) names and email addresses are not shared.

Please be aware that, as with the other networks, the Social care strategic leads network has certain ground rules. These are:

- Everyone's email address and other contact details will not be shared without a person's consent
- If someone wishes to share information or raise a question to the group then please send to practice.admin@rcot.co.uk
- When using the SharePoint Network Hub, professional conduct and communication is expected at all times, in line with the [RCOT Professional standards for occupational therapy practice, conduct and ethics](#) (2021)

- Abusive and offensive language and materials are forbidden
- Members should only share resources and materials that are in the public domain, or with appropriate permission
- RCOT reserves the right to remove any content that is not deemed to be appropriate
- If you change your email address, please contact practice.admin@rcot.co.uk with your new details as soon as possible
- Members can remove their name from the group at any time by contacting practice.admin@rcot.co.uk

Thank you for participating in this network. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact practice.admin@rcot.co.uk.