Occupational therapists in independent practice

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e-Newsletters • Journals • CPD opportunities • Online resources • Networking • Events • Social media
Specialist Section

Independent Practice

The Royal College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section – Independent Practice is a branch of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT). The membership comprises occupational therapists from a variety of backgrounds including case managers, educators, expert witnesses, researchers and occupational therapists that have an interest or are working in independent practice. The members may be new or established independent occupational therapists including sole traders, companies, not-for-profit organisations and contractors. The RCOT Specialist Section-Independent Practice is active in supporting members in the delivery of high quality services and provides both networking opportunities and resources to help members develop their independent practice.

All Specialist Sections are led by a National Executive Committee (NEC) made up of volunteers elected from the membership at the Annual Review Meeting (ARM). Members support fellow members at local and national levels across the UK. All Specialist Section – Independent Practice members must also be members of RCOT.

The RCOT Specialist Section-Independent Practice NEC has a three-tier structure: strategic leads, (the Chair, Vice Chair and Finance Lead with responsibility for future development); business leads (various committee posts with lead responsibility for a specific role in the day-to-day running of the organisation) and additional support, including various paid posts such as the coordinator and project officers, as required. In addition the RCOT Specialist Section-Independent Practice has a regional network of 10 regions, each with a regional contact who is responsible for liaising with those members working in their region.

The RCOT Specialist Section–Independent Practice is:

• Independent and resourceful.
• Entrepreneurial and professional.
• Diverse and creative.
• Dynamic and motivated.

Aims of the Specialist Section

• To support members in the start-up and development of their businesses.
• To promote awareness and implementation of sound business practices.
• To provide networking opportunities for members.
• To raise public awareness about what independent occupational therapists offer.
• To enable members of the public to find an independent occupational therapist.
The values of the Specialist Section are:

**COLLABORATION**
To be active health enablers and work in collaboration with clients to identify what matters to them and their needs, to establish and work within partnerships – with the RCOT, RCOT Specialist Section-Independent Practice members and others – that are based on shared responsibility, effort and outcomes.

**COMMUNICATION**
To communicate respectfully with clients, to listen to and be driven by the RCOT Specialist Section-Independent Practice members and to work effectively with the RCOT and all other stakeholders.

**CELEBRATION**
To be proactive and positive, to help clients identify their needs, to implement corresponding solutions, products and services and to learn from and celebrate achievements.

**Member services and products**
The RCOT Specialist Section-Independent Practice provides a range of services and products to meet the needs of members in terms of business start-up, business development, best business practice standards and networking opportunities. Please note members need to also seek independent expert advice on accountancy and business start-up.

**INFORMATION**
A Welcome Pack for new members, Start-Up Pack and business guides, the Code of Business Practice, member-only website, the monthly e-NEWS and bulk emails, the annual conference, information and support via the coordinator email: coordinator@rcotss-ip.org.uk

**NETWORKING**
Regional networks and associated events, the annual conference, other events and social media.

**TRAINING**

**PROMOTION**
Including the online Directory of Independent Occupational Therapists [www.rcotss-ip.org.uk/find](http://www.rcotss-ip.org.uk/find) – to help members of the public find an appropriate occupational therapist, discounted business services and the promotion of independent/private occupational therapists and the profession at relevant events.

**REPRESENTATION**
The opportunity for members to have their views and needs represented to the RCOT so that they can be taken forward in terms of the further development of dedicated products and services and the independent sector as a whole.
For more information about the Specialist Section – Independent Practice please visit our website: rcotss-ip.org.uk

Q: How do I join Specialist Section – Independent Practice?
A: Please visit the web pages at rcotss-ip.org.uk

Q: How long does my membership last?
A: The membership runs from 1st October to 30th September annually.

Q: Who can join?
A: Anyone who is a member of the RCOT and who works independently will benefit from being a member.

Q: How much does it cost to be a member?
A: There is an annual membership fee plus an additional fee if you wish to purchase one of our directory profiles. More details about costs are available on our website.

Q: Can I belong to more than one Specialist Section?
A: Yes, you can belong to as many as you wish.

For further information contact:
Email: coordinator@rcotss-ip.org.uk or specialistsectionadmin@rcot.co.uk

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