Find out more about joining the Specialist Section for People with Learning Disabilities
Specialist Section
People with Learning Disabilities

The Royal College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section – People with Learning Disabilities is a branch of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT). The membership includes occupational therapists from a variety of backgrounds, such as educators, researchers, occupational therapy staff and students, who have an interest in people with learning disabilities. The Specialist Section – People with Learning Disabilities, is active in supporting members to deliver high quality services.

The Specialist Section – People with Learning Disabilities is 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 – People with Learning Disabilities members must also be members of RCOT.

Our members had this to say:

“Being part of the Specialist Section has been wonderful for me as a lone occupational therapist working in a community LD team. I find it motivating and enjoy keeping up to date with evidence based practice and issues which occupational therapists working in learning disability have highlighted. I would recommend any occupational therapist working in a setting where they may be working with clients with a learning disability to join.”

“I recommend people to join a Specialist Section to share knowledge, experience and advice, to receive the regular occupational therapy updates, to meet up at the conference, to maintain their CPD. It’s always nice to know that there is somebody to ask if you are stuck. Thank you for all your hard work.”

When asked what the NEC do well, conference delegates said the following:

• Provide great links with the RCOT.
• Provide initiatives for everyone to get involved.
• Annual conference and learning events.
• Great newsletter.
• Inspire people to get involved.
Aims of the Specialist Section

• To promote high standards of occupational therapy practice for people with learning disabilities.
• To unite and encourage maximum interaction and support between members of the profession working with people with learning disabilities.
• To share expertise, techniques, ideas and new information.
• To organise and encourage participation in educational events of contemporary interest.
• To encourage collaboration and understanding between occupational therapists and other disciplines.
• To emphasise the importance of educating occupational therapy students and practitioners about the needs of people with learning disabilities.

Membership Benefits

• Network with occupational therapists working with people with learning disabilities.
• Receive and contribute to the e-Newsletter.
• Access to the website and information.
• Reduced fees at the annual conference and other learning events.
• Active committee representing members interests at local and national level.
• Opportunities to network both locally and nationally through regional groups.
• Representation at relevant forums at RCOT.
• Regular emails updating members on current items of interest, developments and innovations.
• Local groups can benefit from additional support and resources when participants are Specialist Section members.
• A well-attended annual conference covering a variety of areas relevant to occupational therapy with people with learning disabilities, plus study days on topical issues.
For more information about the Specialist Section – People with Learning Disabilities please visit our website: rcot.co.uk/pld

Q: How do I join Specialist Section – People with Learning Disabilities?
A: Please visit the web pages and download our membership form at rcot.co.uk/pld

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

Q: Who can join?
A: Anyone who is a member of the RCOT.

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: specialistsectionadmin@rcot.co.uk