

Maximise your RCOT Membership

Presented by
Claudia Anderson



Our speakers

- Steve Ford, CEO
- Lorinda Sharkey, Engagement Officer – Volunteers
- Anne Keen, Professional Advisory Service Manager
- Joe Brunwin, Policy and Public Affairs Lead - England
- Alice Ford-Smith, Librarian - Collections and Access



Introduction from Steve Ford



Supporting your professional development



Why is CPD so important?

- Developing **good CPD habits is key to all occupational therapists** to keep their knowledge and skills up to date to ensure safe and effective practice, and to comply with HCPC CPD standards.
- **We advocate for everyone feeling confident with recording CPD** to help you feel as prepared as possible for future CPD audits.
- Recognising what counts as CPD and having a place to record your reflections are key components to **support your lifelong learning** and career development.

Your CPD portfolio

- A place to capture your lifelong learning and development, no matter your role or career stage
- Thousands of members have signed up already!
- Members tell us they love being able to record CPD and evidence on the go, and that it's very easy to use
- Supports you to meet the [HCPC CPD standards](#)

Making a difference to members...

It's so easy to use
– I love being able
to save and see
everything to do
with my CPD in
one place.

I'm using the
portfolio all the
time, and I've
presented about it
to my team!

Thank you for
introducing an online
portfolio, I'm making
time once a month to
go back through my
diary and record all
learning activities.

Create good CPD habits

- Recognise, record and reflect on the CPD you already do as part of your everyday
- Get familiar with what's expected by HCPC
- CPD in teams and with others – we're each other's greatest resource!
- RCOT events, library, cafes and communities...



Resources to support you

- Scan the QR code to head to our [CPD portfolio webpage](#)
- Find answers to frequently asked questions
- Watch back a webinar with CPDme (with demonstration)
- CPDme's [free daily live demos](#)
- CPDme have several how-to-guide videos including [how to create a diary entry](#) and [how to create a reflective entry](#)



RCOT communities



RCOT Communities



- Enrich your CPD
- Form meaningful connections with others across the networks you're a part of
- Share your knowledge and experience with others
- Learn from and with your peers
- Discuss and debate topics, questions, theories, research, concepts and ideas
- Explore and support career transitions and progression

RCOT Communities



'The new online platform has the potential to create new networks and to open new channels of communication with occupational therapists with similar interests'

Dan Waldon, Joint Chair of Specialist Section Children, Young People and Families

'This platform is building on the expertise and experience of our Specialist Sections, networks, regions and forums and will make our communities more accessible to all members'

Aisling Durkin, Council Member, Northern Ireland

RCOT Communities



Get involved

- Volunteer for a network role
- Look out for our new networks in 2025!
- Join Research Connect

Supporting you in practice



Professional Advisory Service

- The Professional Advisory Service (PAS) is a RCOT member-benefit, here to help you with all aspects of professional practice in the workplace, e.g.:
 - Returning to practice
 - Fitness to practice
 - Scope of practice
 - Insurance
- To contact PAS call 020 3141 4630 or email professional.advisoryservice@rcot.co.uk . We're open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.



UNISON

- All RCOT members are members of UNISON (except for those who are wholly self-employed or employed overseas).
- UNISON represents members in many ways, from advising and supporting individual members about a problem at work, to using its voice to influence decision-making at a national level, that will affect all occupational therapy staff.
- RCOT and UNISON work together to make sure our members concerns are heard – whether it's about pay, health and safety, discrimination or the future direction of occupational therapy services.

Equity, Diversity, and Belonging (EDB)



Why is EDB so important?

- It enhances empathy and social awareness
- Promotes personal growth and development that leads to improved professional competence and best practice.
- It helps meeting HCPC standards of proficiency
- Builds better relationships resulting in more equitable and inclusive workplaces for OTs
- Offers allyship to members and all those affected by discrimination and external geopolitical events & developments
- Reduces conflict and promotes respectful dialogue
- Adaptability and resilience in a changing world
- Promotes individual and collective wellbeing

Our impact

- EDB Critical Self Awareness Interactive Toolkit
- 4 EDB Insights Sessions
- 2 EDB Reflection Sessions- Race Riots
- EDB articles in OTnews
- 4 Expert Advisory Groups
- EDB presentations at OT events and conferences

Coming soon..

- Member Guidance and Learning Material for Standard 5 of the HCPC Standards of Proficiency
- Discrimination and allyship toolkit
- Inclusive language guide
- EDB on RCOT Communities

How members can get involved

- Engage with and use EDB toolkits & learning Resources
- Attend EDB insights and reflection sessions
- Join and participate on the Communities Platform
- Create safe and brave spaces for open, non-judgmental conversations
- Share insights from professional and personal lived experiences
- Participate in staff networks and share best practice
- Allyship/Volunteering

Practice and Workforce



How do we influence?

- Policy and public affairs for Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales
- Consultations: Policy and practice
- Professional networks: Workforce strategy advisory groups, Leadership forum, Primary care network
- National workforce reform workshops
- Workforce survey every 3 years



Opportunities to get involved

- Respond to the 10 Year Health Plan
- Look out for our Workforce Survey
- Use our resources to raise the profile of OT

Supporting research and development



RCOT Digital Library

- Available 24/7
- Tailored & specialist
- All career stages

“I spend too much time looking for books and journals, so the Library will be really useful for my university studies and beyond.”

library@rcot.co.uk
020 3141 4727

Lorna Rutherford
Alice Ford-Smith

RCOT Digital Library

- E-books
- Online journals
- CINAHL and Medline databases (linking to full text articles)
- Catalogue - including details of RCOT publications
- Information skills guides
- Enquiry service

Supporting research

-  Research Connect  our **research network** and monthly **Research Cafes**
-  Research and Innovation Fund  funding for research
-  Evidence-based guidelines  to support evidence informed practice

RCOT Innovation hub

- Share your service innovation ideas with the innovation hub.
- By submitting your ideas, you can access topic expert advice and measurement drop-ins
- [Join](#) our virtual innovation community
- Search our improvement database for ideas



The impact

"I'm the only OT within a charity and it gets lonely not having other OTs to bounce ideas off..."

...the project board enabled me to find someone that works along similar lines, it has reassured me that what I am doing is appropriate and given me ideas to improve my service".

Welcome to the Innovation Hub Community Search for real-world improvements Discussions Find a change maker Resources for change makers



Repositioning social care OT to the front door of adult social care

Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees, UK

The social care occupational therapy service streamlined its process by directly receiving referrals from the front door of adult social care, focusing especially on individuals seeking new or increased packages of care. In 2023-4 from 531 referrals to our service, this led to £948,251 in cost avoidance for Packages of Care (POC) and prevented 301 referrals to Social Work (SW) hubs.

Overview

Innovator involved in project (1)

[Show all](#)



Anita Mottram
Project owner

Supporting our future workforce



Learning and development standards for pre-registration education

- Reflect the current and future needs of the profession, as determined by key stakeholders and RCOT membership.
- Our profession is not static, but instead responsive and evolving. This represents both a strength and a challenge.
- Graduates must establish a strong sense of identity as occupational therapists, have core professional knowledge and skills, demonstrate professionalism and hone leadership skills to take the profession forward.
- **This will require all those involved in the education of the future workforce – educators, practitioners, practice educators, researchers and managers – to help realise this through engagement with the concepts expressed within this publication.**

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RCOT learner ambassadors

- New exclusive learner member benefit, launching September 2024!
- Learner ambassadors promote RCOT membership to learners across the UK and receive complimentary membership and CPD experience in return.
- Connect with your local RCOT learner ambassador or, if you're interested in joining our ambassador network you can [find out more and apply online.](#)



OT week



The power of OT – transforming health and social care

The campaign starts on 4 November, the first day of OT Week and will continue for the next 12 months.

Five ways to profile raise and influence:

1. prepare a story
2. act local
3. be a media spokesperson
4. influence decision-makers
5. get social

Guides, tools and cafés available to support your: rcot.co.uk/profile

Two sets of resources:

- Campaign resources to use all year to create a better understanding of the value of OT:
Narrative, presentation, graphics, posters, animation and occupation-centred practice pack.
- OT Week resources to use before and in the week to promote the week and your activities:
Poster, graphics, virtual background, email signature and bunting



What are
you doing in
OT Week?

Questions?

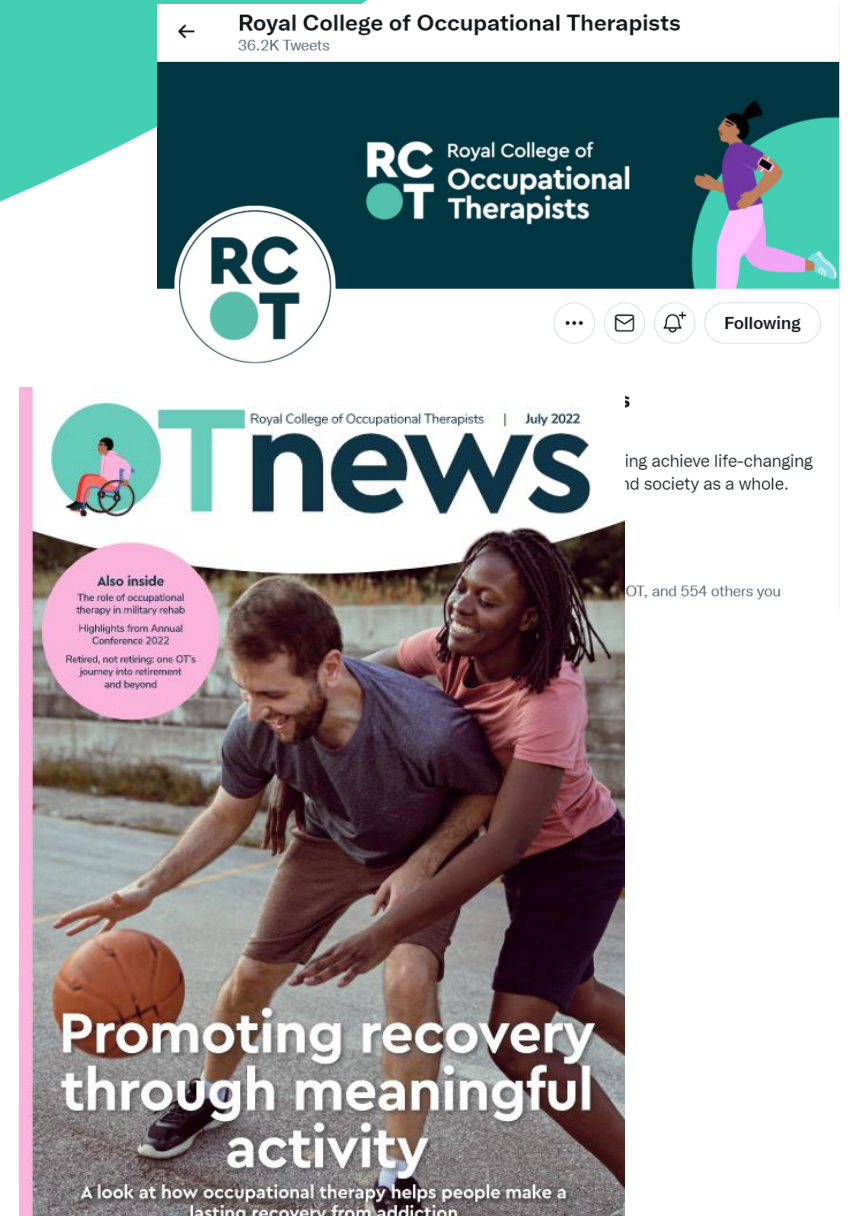


Your wider member benefits



Keeping members in the loop

- *OTnews*, our monthly members magazine
- Social media
- *Highlight*, our monthly email update
- Regional updates
- R&D Bulletin – our research newsletter
- BJOT (British Journal of Occupational Therapy)



Events

- Two-day member led Annual Conference
- Exclusive member only CPD events
- Dedicated Communities events
- Access to a calendar of exciting external events for OTs



Key resources

- Gain access to the [PAS service](#)
- Learn more about our [CPD resources](#)
- Find further information about [RCOT Communities](#)
- Browse through our [Digital Library](#)
- Find out more on upcoming [Events](#)
- Find out more about our [Research](#) resources
- Learn about the membership benefit of [Indemnity insurance](#)

Connect with us on social media

- **Twitter (X):** [@theRCOT](https://twitter.com/theRCOT)
- **Facebook:** [Royal College of Occupational Therapists](https://www.facebook.com/RoyalCollegeofOccupationalTherapists)
- **Instagram:** [@the.rcot](https://www.instagram.com/the.rcot)
- **LinkedIn:** [Royal College of Occupational Therapists](https://www.linkedin.com/company/RoyalCollegeofOccupationalTherapists)



Key contacts

Membership Excellence team

Email - membership@rcot.co.uk

Call - +44 (0)20 3141 4648

PAS Service

professional.advisoryservice@rcot.co.uk

Professional Development team - prof.dev@rcot.co.uk

Twitter: @CPD_RCOT

Practice and Workforce team - Practice.Workforce@rcot.co.uk

