

RCOT: Your Professional Body



Our speakers

- Carolyn Hay, Head of Education
- Anne Keen, Professional Advisory Service Manager
- Christina Fuentes Tibbitt, Communities Manager
- Suzy England, Service Innovation Manager
- Katie MacGregor, Policy & Public Affairs Lead Scotland



Who are we?

We've championed the profession and the people behind it for over 90 years; and today, we are thriving with over 36,000 members.

We're here to help achieve life-changing breakthroughs for our members, for the people they support and for society as a whole.

We give members opportunities to learn, research, teach, practice and continuously improve their knowledge and skills.

We work with healthcare commissioners, political leaders and others to position occupational therapy as a solution at the heart of health and social care.



Assuring quality pre-registration education

Our Standards prepare:

- Graduates to ‘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’.
- Support programmes to prepare graduates for the ‘complexity of emerging practice’.
- Recognise that ‘occupational therapists need to be used more efficiently’.
- and ‘traditional skills need to be adapted so OTs can expand their influence on the design, implementation and evaluation of population health interventions and workforce planning...’.

RCOT 2019, p4

**Learning and development
standards for pre-registration
education**

Revised edition 2019



RCOT Royal College of
Occupational
Therapists



Practice-based learning opportunities are co-produced

1



Practice-based learning takes place across all areas, pillars and levels of practice

2



Practice-based learning environments must be inclusive and welcoming to all

3



Practice-based learning uses flexible, appropriate and supportive models of supervision and delivery

4



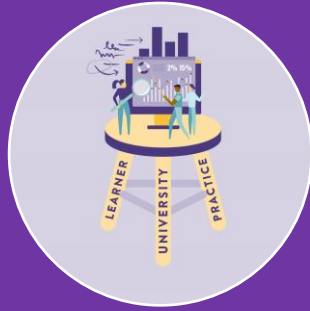
Practice-based learning is designed with a whole team approach

5



All those involved in practice education are valued, respected and recognised within their roles

6



Practice-based learning is evaluated capturing data to drive improvement and demonstrate impact

7

Ways to get involved

- Reviewing and expanding our **Learning and development standards for pre-registration education** (Education summits and community discussion)
- Increase your confidence through attending our **‘Complexity of Occupation’** lecture series and discussion cafés
- Visit our **Education Hub**



RCOT Learner Ambassadors



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.](#)



Current vacancies

- AECC University College
- Anglia Ruskin University - Cambridge campus
- Anglia Ruskin University - Chelmsford campus
- Buckinghamshire New University
- Coventry University - London campus
- Edinburgh Napier University
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Keele University
- Leeds Beckett University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Newman University, Birmingham
- Roehampton University
- Royal Holloway, University of London
- Sheffield Hallam University
- University College Birmingham
- University of Bedfordshire
- University of Bolton
- University of Bradford
- University of Chichester
- University of Gloucestershire
- University of Hertfordshire
- University of Hull
- University of South Wales
- Wrexham University

Supporting your professional development



Why is CPD important to learners?

- 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.
- Although learners and newly registered occupational therapists are exempt from HCPC audit for the first two years of their practice, **we advocate for everyone feeling confident with recording CPD** to help you feel as prepared as possible for future CPD audits.
- As a learner, developing these habits will **set you up for the transition to practice** and support you to develop in your early career and beyond.
- Recognising what counts as CPD and having a place to record your reflections are key components to **support your lifelong learning** and career development.

CPD portfolio

- A single place to capture lifelong learning and development, no matter your role or career stage.
- Record activities, learning, reflections and evidence on the go.
- Supports us to start good CPD habits, meet HCPC CPD standards and helps us to feel prepared for CPD audits.
- Included in RCOT membership package
- Log in via your member portal and the CPDme app

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.

The Career Development Framework



- The [Career Development Framework](#) offers a structure with an overarching set of guiding principles to inform **career, learning and workforce development** within the occupational therapy profession.
- It's designed to be **inclusive and relevant to everyone** and for use in all settings, within all sectors, at all career levels including learners.
- Getting familiar with the career development framework is a **good way to recognise the learning you are doing** and what counts as CPD for you to record your reflections and set goals.
- We have [developed resources](#) to support all members feel confident in using the career development as a tool to support their CPD activities

CPD member resources

- Five minute reflections
- Career conversation podcasts
- Equity, diversity and belonging insights sessions
- Evidence spotlights
- Events and webinars
- Annual Conference
- Library resources
- Learning from each other through our communities



RCOT communities



RCOT Communities



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

- The Professional Advisory Service (PAS) is here to help members with all aspects of professional practice in the workplace [About the Professional Advisory Service - RCOT](#).
- The service is for RCOT members who require assistance and guidance regarding issues at work. We also support members who are going through the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) fitness to practice (FTP) process and former occupational therapists who wish to return to practice.
- Although PAS cannot assist with issues regarding practice placements (learners experiencing issues should contact the education team for support), we are able to signpost you to a huge variety of useful information.
- You can contact us at: professional.advisoryservice@rcot.co.uk or [020 3141 4630](tel:02031414630). We're open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

- When you qualify as an occupational therapist, and register with HCPC, you are **required to have a professional indemnity arrangement** in place as a condition of your registration.
- RCOT member insurance benefits include malpractice and professional liability and public and products liability **insurance up to a limit of £10 million per member.**
- Learners have professional indemnity cover (included in their membership) for periods of practice placement in the UK and overseas (excluding USA/Canada).
- Students **MUST** be working under the supervision of a qualified occupational therapist for this insurance policy to be available to them.
- Student members must not offer treatments outside of their capabilities which at all times must be governed by the phase reached in their training programme and their tutor's assessment.

Supporting research and development



Supporting research

- [Research Connect](#) – our research network and monthly Research Cafes
- Funding for research through our [Research and Innovation Fund](#)
- [Evidence-based guidelines](#) to support evidence informed practice

Supporting innovation

- Share your placement service innovation ideas with the innovation hub
- By submitting your ideas, you can access
 - Topic expert advice
 - Getting started and measurement drop-ins
- Post-placement you can share your placement learning with the wider membership.

The impact

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.

Description

The change:

Overview

Innovator involved in project (1) [Show all](#)



Anita Mottram
Project owner

[Send message](#)

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.

Get involved

- [Join](#) our virtual innovation community
- Search our improvement database for ideas
- Come to a measurement drop-in to help you capture your placement learning.

RCOT Digital Library

Online resources & services

- E-books & theses
- Online databases & f/t articles
- Information skills guides
- Enquiry service

Benefits to you

- All career stages
- Tailored & specialist
- Always available 24/7
- Complement other collections
- A constant resource

Contacts

library@rcot.co.uk

020 3141 4727

Lorna Rutherford
Alice Ford-Smith

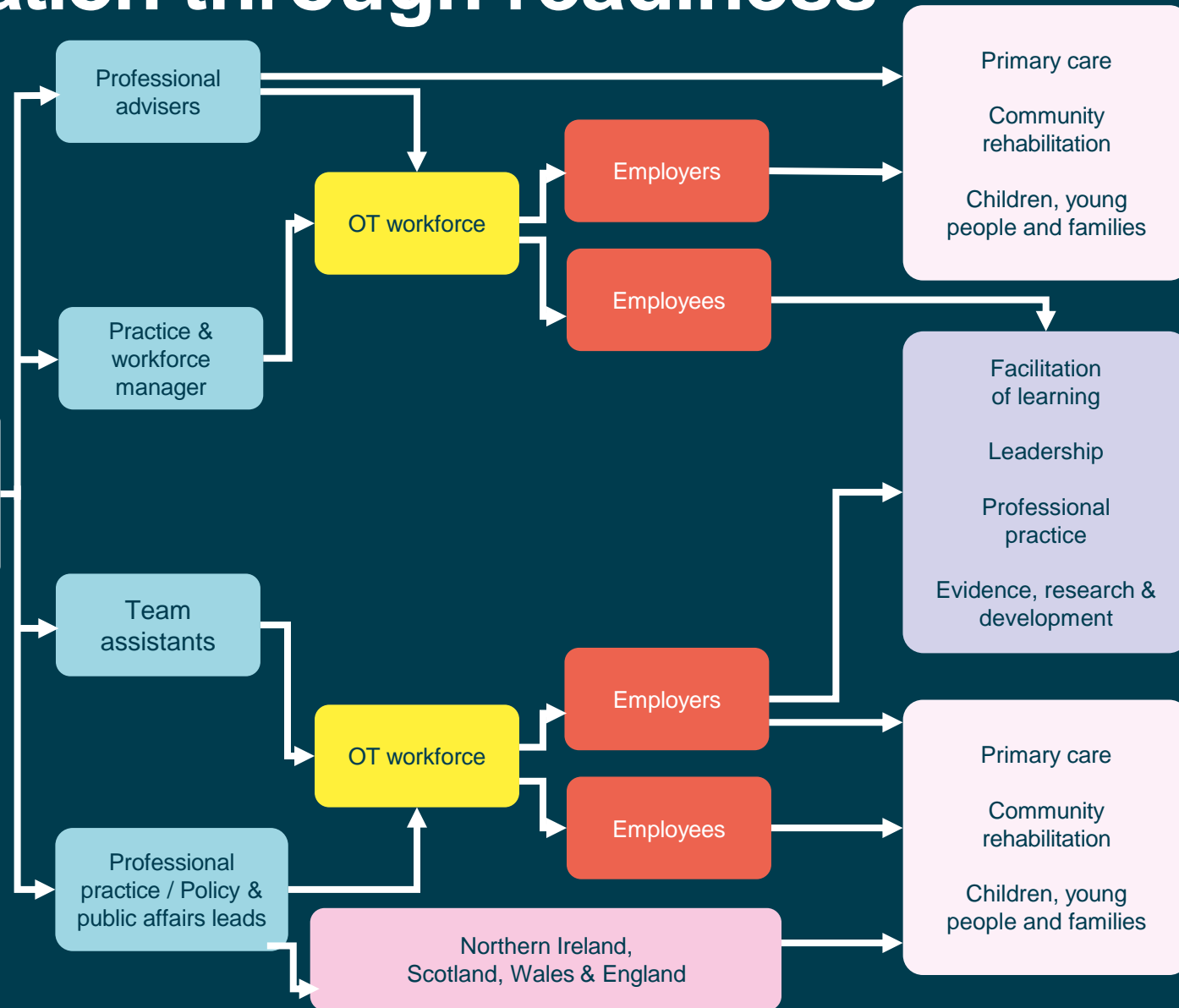
Practice and workforce



Modernisation through readiness

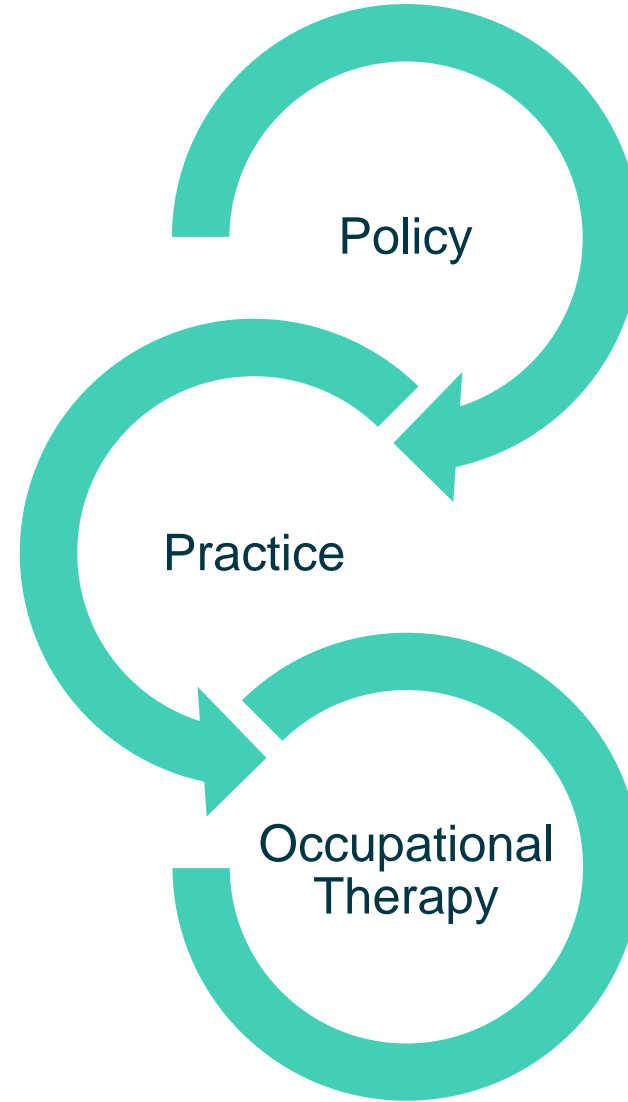


Practice & workforce



Function of the Practice and Workforce team:

Influencing



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
- New [Workforce Strategy](#) and country action plans



Your wider member benefits



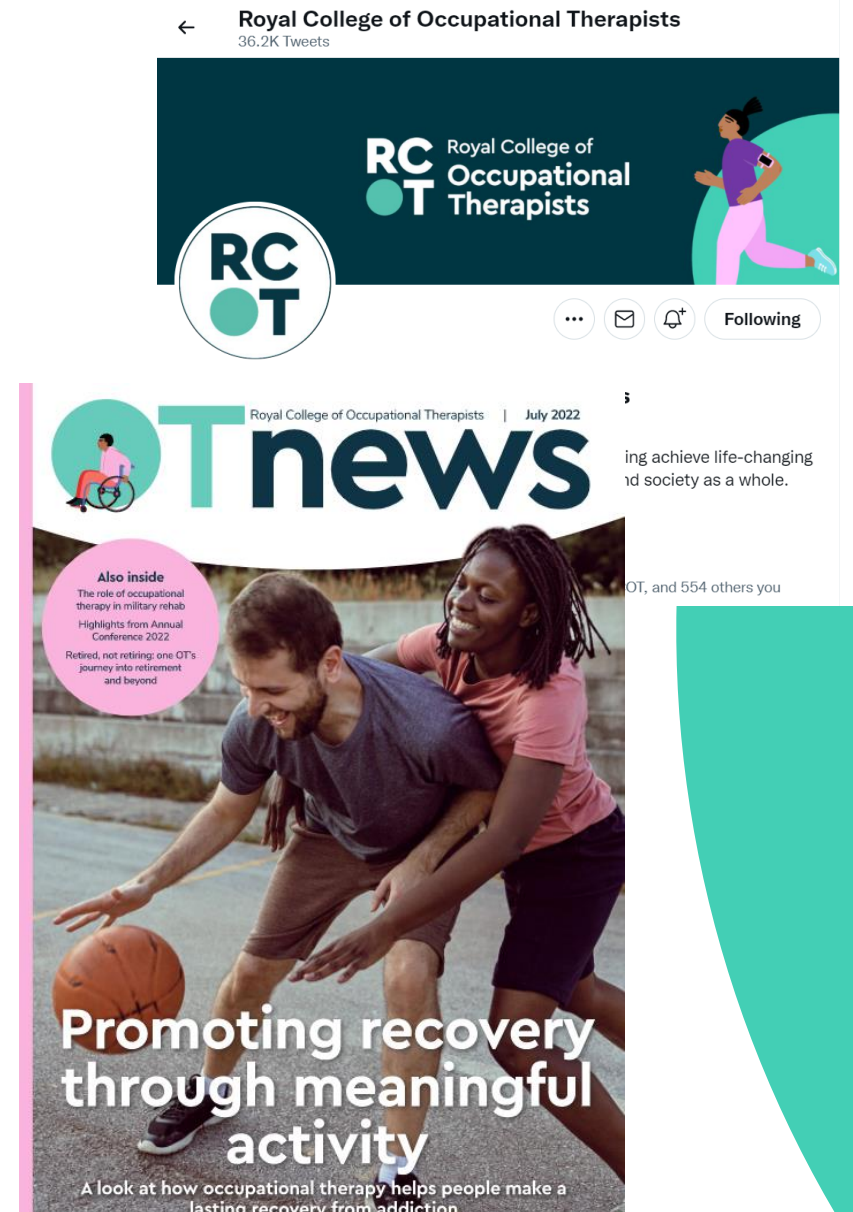
Events

- Two-day member led Annual Conference
- Elizabeth Casson memorial lecture
- Exclusive member only CPD events
- Dedicated regional events
- Access to a calendar of exciting external events for OTs at discounted rates



Keeping members in the loop

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



Joining RCOT

- Sign up as a member online today,
- Learner membership is discounted to £5.13 per month



Questions



Key resources

- Learn more about our [CPD resources](#)
- Connect with our [PAS service](#)
- Find further information about our [Regions](#)
- Browse through our [Library](#)
- Find out more on upcoming [events](#)
- Find out more about our [Research](#) resources
- Learn about your [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

