

Statement of Intent for Patient and Public Involvement

We (RCOT) want people to be at the heart of the work we do and to help us make informed decisions about that work. We recognise that people with lived experience of accessing occupational therapy, their families, and carers are best placed to advise on the services and support that will make a difference to their lives.

We are committed to working with people and their communities and valuing their experience and contribution. We use the term 'public contributors' when referring to people with lived experience and their communities.

Our aim is to work in partnership with public contributors to guide our work. We commit to sharing, planning and decision making with people and their communities to help shape our work. That means working together, from start to finish, on any project that affects them; this is known as co-production.

We use the [UK Standards for Public Involvement](#) to help us develop our practice in the way we involve people and communities in shaping our work. We will:

- use co-production in our work programmes, wherever possible, so that it becomes part of the way we work and our decision making.
- use open and fair approaches to include a diverse range of people with lived experience, their families, carers and communities in our work. We will address under-representation by identifying and addressing barriers to people's involvement.
- use plain language to support clear communication.
- support staff and people we work with to develop confidence and skills in co-production.
- put systems in place that recognise, value, and reward the contributions that people make.
- capture and share the difference that involvement and co-production makes to our work.