

## Conference Evaluations 2007 – 70 returns

	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>
<b>Question 1</b> How well did conference meet your expectations	41 (2+)	19	7	1
<b>Question 2</b> How interesting were the main presentations	39 (variable)	24	6 (variable)	1(thurs)
<b>Question 3</b> How useful were the workshops	22 (esp IB's)	34	10	2
	<b>Too Slow</b>	<b>About Right</b>	<b>Too Hurried</b>	<b>O*</b>
<b>Question 4</b> Conference pace	2	68		
	<b>VG</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>US</b>
<b>Question 5</b> Information pack	36	26	5 (bit large)	
	<b>Cert</b>	<b>Prob</b>	<b>Unl</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Question 6</b> Will info gained at conference influence work	43 (1++)	19 (felt energised)	5	1
	<b>VG</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>US</b>
<b>Question 7</b> Venue suitability?	33 (1++)	29 (don't need air con in Nov)	7	

### Q4 Comments:

- (TS) seemed to be aimed at people with less knowledge than most delegates
- (AR) much better pace than last year
- Very good timekeeping

- I was not able to get all the details down
- Difficult to get there for 9:15 on first day, could have gone on longer in the afternoon

### **Q 8 How did you hear about conference**

- *Leaflet through the post (2)*
- E. Mailing (25)
- *BAOT website (5)*
- Work colleague (OT) (8)
- *Colleague from another service*
- Section member (20)
- *Via Kate Sheehan*
- Regional Group (2)
- *Manager at work suggested attendance (3) (I was not a member at the time I am now!)*

### **Q9 What did you find most interesting/useful at conference**

- *Unfortunately I found the day (Thurs) disappointing*
- Workshops inspirational design (3)
- *Salford project (5)*
- *Networking, literature received in packs and Living Works / latest research info etc*
- As always, networking and debate is invaluable (4)
- *Space at home - autistic children (6)*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> day's programme offered more for debate and consideration, 1<sup>st</sup> day's programme was paced well
- *Autism presentation & workshop (7)*
- Morning presentations
- *All helpful and very useful // well balanced and informative (4)*
- Better outcomes // Frances presentation could have been longer - was really interesting. Always excellent (27)
- *Design Brief (7) I have used some of the product details in my bathroom adaptations recommendation*
- Very good speakers / subjects (2)
- *Individual budgets & workshops (4)*

- Sue Pengelly's research, Frances Heywood's research
- *Networking with other delegates gave insight into some innovative practises, Better Outcomes lower costs was very useful and very interesting, I felt I was getting real value for my time, commitment and my authority's money*
- Debate (5) // although they agreed more than disagreed!
- Sight Loss Workshop was very interesting (3) and think it would be good as a main presentation at conference
- *Networking opportunities, updating on best practices (4)*
- Habinteg workshop
- *Presentations from Frances H. and Louise Cusack*
- Interesting debate about lifetime homes - good to share concerns
- *Hearing up to date research / policy nationwide and networking*
- Networking. Exhibits, Autism workshops (2)
- *V. good equipment exhibition (3)*
- The inclusive Bathroom guide
- *Richard Hamer – excellent speaker – really knows his subject*
- Links to relevant info on the web
- *Beginning the debate on IB*
- High quality presentations, general friendliness, experience of others, Inspiration of others
- *Everything was interesting v useful, but I wish Glen Mason had answered Frances Heywood's question – Typical politician!*
- I work in a newly set up major adaptations team, so it has been interesting to find out how other teams work and are set up, Useful contacts – networking, frances amazing and inspirational++ Autism very interesting, visual workshop
- *Exhibitions being available all the time*
- I enjoyed all of it, however, most useful to me was the presentation by Frances Heywood and information about IB's
- *All main speakers – content very interesting and useful*
- Time to network with other OT's across the country, useful rep stalls relevant to my area of work. Modular buildings presentation very good, very good, thought provoking presentation from Frances, good debate about private v council/RSL housing when questions asked by audience
- *Just about everything, workshops particularly good*
- Everything
- *Interesting to hear about research options*

## Q10 What did you consider least interesting/useful

- *IB workshop - asked to do case studies when there was no real explanation about IB's // more detail & specifics would have helped explain IB's // really wanted to know more but couldn't really grasp how it works. // the workshops was rather long and the activity a bit confusing IB (only because I have heard before. The IB's was frustrating –too many questions needed answers – still can't understand the funding systems and pathways  
IB presentation was too slow and laboured considering we were all OT's working in the field – a specialist group I did need to know about IB's so am grateful for that //IB's don't see why this was relevant to a housing conference IB's not relevant to my work, but interesting to know about them // Still none the wiser*
- Space @home for autistic children - not sure that I would call this a research project, interviews with 3 families and outcomes that any OT should be able to predict + Research about autism, too small a sample
- *Modular buildings (3) - (fairly interesting but not new wave) ('Data gatherers' for modular builds was just "data") (now heard three times!)*
- IB (6) I had great interest in this but felt I was given very limited information and struggled to relate it to my own practise
- *Everything useful // nothing // found it all of value*
- All areas were relevant to housing OT's
- *It was all relevant, just not long enough*
- Inspirational design (2) // not new material
- *Workshop on Inspirational Design could have been more interesting – felt that a lot of it we had already heard at the conference – everything else was superb*
- *Space @ home*
- D O H's vision (8) I would like some good examples of good joint working going on across the country // “political spin” // I live in Wales – not really relevant
- What's hot at COT (3)
- *Necessity to travel trough London to get here!*
- Nothing (5)
- *Gala dinner – I'll probably go out with a group next year round the corner! Loved the networking though*
- The Mayor!!! – why bother
- *Welcome to Brighton*
- Debate (5) was weak – a missed opportunity not enough polar opposite // I think, although fairly interesting, the debate 1<sup>st</sup> thing in the am Friday was not as useful as I had hoped // couldn't engage as it felt unfortunate timing to promote buying in the current financial/housing market (credit squeeze)

- *Glen Mason – unclear, did not give satisfactory answers to questions, Individual budgets, raised more questions than answers, I came away confused*
- *The IB workshops might have been more helpful if there had been more information on the case studies – what was included in the baseline support etc*
- *Social Housing v private ownership, the way the arguments were presented as opposed to the subject itself*
- *Not clear regarding IB as to how relevant this is to housing. I didn't feel this was really explained. IB's seem very similar to Direct payments. The presentation by the service user was interesting, but didn't clarify*
- *Very expensive hotel*

**Q11 How could we have improved to conference for you**

- *IB would have been interesting/useful if the background to it had been explained and how the different funding streams had been put together*
- *Main conference room not very comfortable for sitting for long periods*
- *No issues personally, great venue, well catered for, very pleasant hotel staff*
- *Slightly later start on the first day to allow for travel (2)*
- *A little more info on workshops to help with choosing*
- *Really enjoyed event, well run, excellent standard of presenters*
- *A talk on development in Models and approaches in OT in relation to housing as well as Intervention and assessment*
- *4 bottles of wine at the gala dinner*
- *It would be difficult to improve on such a well positive, well organised conference, except to ask speakers not to hide behind stats and try to get us to be more challenged in our practise*
- *The venue was very small for so many delegates*
- *How about Jersey for a venue!, I think it would be nice to have a cultural talk/walk of conference town/venue like the walk around Derry the Pavillion would have been nice to see*
- *Nearer to Devon!*
- *More comfortable chairs, on the delegate list, it would have been useful to have had delegates e.mail addresses too for networking after rather than having to get this seperately*
- *Put up a notice board for delegates to arrange a meeting place e.g. over lunch/coffee to meet others wishing to discuss particular topics (e.g. those wishing to discuss particular topics CBL meet in bar at lunchtime. Provide e.mail contacts on delegates list*
- *It was excellent*

- Could we look at teleconferencing or alternative means of recording/relaying conference to local authorities who no longer can pay for their employees to attend
- *Cheaper / options of suitable guest houses close to the hotel / better, easier parking*
- I'd liked to have more opportunity for questions and real debate
- *Could have had more up to date topics e.g. DFG review update, community equipment review, the pilot would have been interesting*
- Autism workshop just touched the surface – the workshop leaders obviously had a wealth of knowledge / experience which would have been useful to hear about. Ideas re solutions / funding would have been useful
- *Later start to allow time driving after child care*
- Minor comments Autism – too hot Individual budgets – noisy exhibition leaving
- *Gets better & better – might you consider inviting people to offer presentations if they want?*
- Not at all
- *I felt it was excellent – a varied selection of speakers*
- Access to room sets –Eastbourne – Grahams or similar
- *Seating was arranged so it was often difficult to see the projected images – don't have an answer for this*
- Workshops could have been longer to finish the discussions more thoroughly
- *Not sure what happened at the end of the conference. Would have been good to have a 'close of conference' as on the programme: a general thank-you and see you in Aberdeen!*
- It would be interesting to hear from colleagues across Europe or USA to present on accessible housing in their countries – to see if we are leading the way or could learn from other good practice
- *Discussion on practises in Social Services and how counties/boroughs all try and meet the various challenges posed by government and waiting lists*
- *Ideas – follow up the debate with a pm workshop for more discussion – have groups for regional group delegates to touch base – for sharing info / networking re different local practises or approaches to an issue or problem*
- Give details of workshops rather than just titles to assist with choice
- *Made it 3 days?!*
- E.mail addresses of delegates – too hot particularly on the Fri in the main hall coffee/tea queues were quite long
- *It was wonderful and ran so smoothly for us. Plenty of support, we enjoyed the gala dinner (found £30 quite a blow), Location was lovely on the sea front.*
- More short presentations on innovations throughout the country
- *Have it by the sea every year*

- Debate was a bit “undynamic”
- *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Durham conference with the extensive lounges encouraged ‘after conference’ debate/discussion. The accessibility of brighton and the small lounge area reduced the meetings/discussions this time*
- More info on the content of the workshops. Better info on the room numbers for the workshops
- *More workshops,(2) // I would have liked to been to 4 of them*
- Can’t think of much, it was well organised, relevant, stimulating and fairly well perfect! // I felt it was ver well run and can’t think of any obvious improvements
- *Would have been good to have a reduced weekend rate with the hotel so you could have extended your stay, haad to check into another more reasonably priced one*
- A concluding plenary session of some sort would have been a better end
- *It was very well organised, I think a bi-annual conference would be fine if there wasn’t enough content to fill it annually*

#### Q12 **Any other comments**

- 8:15 registration - very difficult to make if travelling on the day and from any distance
- *1<sup>st</sup> time coming to conference also becoming a member after this 2 days*
- This was my 1<sup>st</sup> OT conference experience, lots to bring back to the team who kindly gave me the time to attend
- *I will be joining SS as not yet a member*
- I enjoyed the two days and got some useful info
- *For past members to be contacted and advised of conferences and other events, giving them the opportunity to consider re-joining*
- I heard the T Pocklington Trust workshop was excellent
- *Info arrived early, booking easy, well organised and well run*
- Not enough debate about the retail model proposed fro equipment. This is a very important development that will impact greatly upon SS OT's and OTA's
- *An excellent two days and so grateful to the committee for their hard work*
- Mary was amazing at chairing and her enthusiasm!
- *Not interested in £40k in bank! Although I thoroughly enjoyed conference, felt a little disappointed that it was not a bit more dynamic....sorry!*
- A very enjoyable conference with interesting and relevant speakers

- *Well done and thanks for great organisation*
- Excellent conference. How about opportunity for individual feedback on the presentations and w/s so presenters could have individual feedback ...good for CPD and learning
- *Very smoothly run conference, if you've got £40,000 assests, shpuod have been cheaper to attend given extreme financial issues employers have / especially in encouraging newer staff to become members*
- Great food!
- *1<sup>st</sup> time attended, but will do so again.*
- Hotel with parking would be helpful
- *Another excellent, thought provoking conference*
- Very useful to have handouts on CD
- *I would like to know how space for Autistic children fits into eligibility for DFG. How do we make a case for this for extra space*
- Tremendous organisation, good pace, good timekeeping, any way the grants officers could be more engaged?.
- *The venue was very good and the two days appeared to go 'like clockwork'!*
- Thanks, good conference (2)
- *Difficult to generalise on this evaluation – might be more useful to you to have specific evaluation on each speaker / topic etc to give a clearer picture – Friday pm – all kind of fizzled out.*
- I think the committee should consider 'upbeat' position statements for members. Could use when negotiating priority for services – following Frances Heywood's Theme
- *Brighton was a brilliant venue!. Many thanks Large conferences are always wonderful to attend, I've managed to get to 3 in the last 17 years of being an OT funding is always an issue*
- Please no more Salford Modular designs, it's interesting but has now been on the agenda for 4 years. Did Ellie say you had made a profit from the gala dinner?? If so – I don't agree as this is paid for out of our own pockets
- *COTSS –H is such good value for money – I'm always inspired by the conference*
- Initially the agenda for conference did not particularly stimulate me, but the reality was brilliant, excellent presentations and I enjoyed the new style debate
- *Really really enjoyed the conference and presentations, the delegate pack is really excellent, good range of equipment suppliers came, food was really nice, we found it useful to come with colleagues – bounce ideas off with each other – thank-you*
- Fantastic city, hotel very good, food excellent, nice atmosphere
- *Good venue, Excellent timekeeping, interesting workshops, generally very enjoyable*
- Well done!
- *The organisation was pretty good, Fantastic to network and so useful to hear Frances Heywood*

- Exhibitions good
- *Thank-you for an excellent conference*
- Would like this specialist section to extend its remit to Social Services OT – topics such as individual budgets would appeal to all and not just those interested in housing
- *Nice food and plenty of refreshments, well organised conference, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at Brighton, Would have been good to have had more time for questions and debate following Frances's presentation as it raised quite an interest in the audience. Very, very interested in what was being said.*
- *CD with brochure – brilliant // CD notes was a good idea*
- I enjoyed it and was so motivated – I've joined the NEC Thank-you Richard
- *Really enjoyable/useful/well organised conference*
- Thanks very much for all the hard work! Hope to see you next year
- *Think end of day session after workshops of value and seemed to disappear. Is an opportunity for comments to be made when there had been insufficient time for questions during presentations. Good to say a proper goodbye and look forward to next year.*
- Work could be done to try to broaden attendance to include more housing/home improvement agency staff working on adaptations
- *It was great as I like Brighton and the venue was great and food lovely.*

Numbers of completed evaluations received	-	70
Number of non-member replies	-	10
Of these, those who indicated they would join	-	2
Number who did not note membership	-	1