

**SPECIALIST SECTIONS
ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE
CLINICAL FORUM**

The following updates are needed for presentation to the
Professional Practice Board

Each specialist section will report on the key areas below. If nothing to report on any or these areas can a N/A please be put into the final column.	
<u>Specialist Section:</u> College of Occupational Therapist Specialist Section – People with Learning Disabilities	<u>Comment</u>
<u>Reporting period:</u> 1st October 2007 – 31st January 2008	
<u>Specialist section conference update/learning events:</u> A very successful conference was held on 1 st & 2 nd November 2007, with over 100 delegates attending the 2 days. The conference was held in Oxford and was entitled 'Aspire to change – the future of OT in learning disabilities'. Keynote speakers were <i>Rebecca Pockney</i> , speaking about the Practice Principles Project, <i>Genevieve Smyth</i> of COT talking about her role as Professional affairs officer and how she is linking up with current learning disability work, and Louise Cusack talking about 'What's hot at COT' The conference was attended by a delegation of students from Oxford Brooks university (who received a special booking rate), and a group of clients who led a dance workshop. The feedback received from the delegates was very good, with 100% of delegates who completed an evaluation form stating they would attend a conference again. This year we are planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 day conference in Derby Conference on November 6th 2008 • 2 study days. One on consent / capacity to link in with Mental Capacity Act and one on behaviour which challenges to link in with the Royal College of Psychiatrists document 'Challenging Behaviours a Unified Approach' • Fringe meeting at COT Conference 2008, Harrogate on Weds 11th June at 5pm 	
<u>Specialist sections membership and activity of working groups/parties/projects:</u> <i>Winter newsletter</i> – e-mailed out at beginning of January. Well received. New editor now in post who will edit next newsletter.	

<p><i>National Library for Health(NLH) – Learning Disabilities</i> – Had received information from COT library about some possible changes which may affect access to the NLH e-library. Have been in contact with them and have a member of the committee who is now an established link with the library to exchange ideas, comments and information.</p> <p><i>Challenging Behaviours a Unified Approach</i> – A Royal College of Psychiatrists document published in June 2007. A formal response has been sent by COT-SS-PLD and a second response in conjunction with Royal College of Nursing. Many NEC members and SS members submitted comments for inclusion in the response.</p> <p><i>COT -SS–work</i> - Jain Holmes from this specialist section attended our conference to run a joint session. We have been asked to collaborate with this SS and MENCAP to produce a document about work.</p> <p><i>National electronic care workshop</i> – This is due to be held on 12th February and a member, Judith Reep, will be attending on our behalf.</p> <p><i>MENCAP information sheet</i> – We have worked with MENCAP to update and information sheet about the role of the OT in LD. This is available on their website.</p> <p><i>LD Coalition consultation event</i> – this was held on 12th December 2007 in Oxford, about the refreshed Valuing People document. The event was attended by Genevieve Smyth and Anna Spurr, an NEC member. They were able to contribute positively to the discussions.</p> <p><i>‘Valuing people now: from progress to transformation - a consultation on the next three years of learning disability policy’</i> – The update to the Valuing People white paper is out for consultation. It has been e-mailed to all member and a SS response is being prepared.</p> <p><i>All party parliamentary group for LD</i> – Jo Dwyer, NEC member, is to attend the next group.</p> <p><i>Health Care Commission – ‘A life like no other’</i> – A response was given to this from COT and as a result the SS has been invited to attend some consultation events. Four NEC members will be attending.</p>	
<p><u>COT Funded Special Sections projects:</u> See separate report below Also, since the report, COT ethics approval has been granted and all paperwork has now been submitted for the NHS ethics approval. The date for the NHS committee to review the ethics is 27th February 2008</p>	
<p><u>Highlight topics to be addressed:</u></p>	

<p><u>Practice issues/emerging topics:</u> <u>Consent</u> – re Mental capacity Act and implications for practice (see study day above) <u>Waiting times, Wales</u> – Welsh Assembly has set tough targets for waiting times for therapies which OT's are concerned will affect the quality of the service offered. <u>Quality of life for people with learning disabilities</u> – 3 key documents recently produced, 'Health Care Commission – A life like no other', 'Challenging Behaviours a Unified Approach' and 'Valuing people now: from progress to transformation - a consultation on the next three years of learning disability policy' These documents are shaping the future of learning disability services</p>	
<p><u>Activities against specialist section business plans:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish new COT-SS-PLD NEC following nomination of new members at AGM November 2007 Two NEC members left the committee in November and four new members were elected. Roles have been partially established but will be further redefined at the next NEC meeting in March 2008. 2. Organise a 1 day conference during 2008 A member of the NEC has taken on the role of conference organiser, and two other members have taken on the role of organising 2 study days. 3. Begin to organise conference 2009 in conjunction with COT E-mail correspondence continues and meetings are attended as needed / when able. All tasks requested of the SS have been completed to date. 4. Continue to develop and maintain the COT-SS-PLD Newsletter A new newsletter editor is in place. Dates have been set for publishing 3 further newsletters throughout the year. Winter newsletter went out in January. 5. To consider future of COT-SS-PLD Resource File A resource facilitator is in place however attempts to publish a paper version of the file have been abandoned in favour of PDF information sheets and updateable web pages. Topics have been selected for the coming year. 6. Increase dialogue and face to face contact with locality groups Locality group contacts were invited to the conference, at a discount, and then a locality discussion group was held with those who attended. Terms of reference for the groups have been set up and these are being discussed with all the locality groups. 7. Complete all written reports requested from COT via the Specialist Sections Officer Ongoing 8. Complete R.D. & E. Project work: Audit of Principles for Practice Ongoing – see report below 9. Continue to forge strong links with COT-SS-PLD members. Ongoing. Members making good use of COTSSPLS e-mail address and good responses are had from requests circulated via the e-mail members list. 10. To work with COT to implement I.T. changes 	

Ongoing	
Specialist Section membership numbers: BAOT members:193 Non-BAOT members: 15 Total membership: 208 Could you please provide also provide the following information: Non-BAOT members who are Occupational Therapists: 5	

COT-SS-PLD Project Progress Report - 04.02.08

As you may be aware Rebecca Pockney is no longer able to continue leading this project. Therefore two members of the NEC (Alison Lillywhite and David Haines) are taking a lead role with the assistance of a research assistant from the University of Brighton.

The following actions have recently occurred:

- Rebecca Pockney presented the results of phase one of the study at the COTSS-PLD conference in November. The findings will be made available on the website once the entire project is complete
- A Full Ethics Review application form of COT ethics has been completed. The ethics committee has sent us an initial response suggesting several amendments which have now been made. This was resubmitted on the 21/1/08.
- The NHS- REC forms have been completed but we need to await COT ethics approval before they can be submitted
- Phase four of the project which involved contacting the universities regarding student education on learning disability occupational therapists has been removed from this study due to time and financial restraints
- Carers were originally going to be contacted within this study however it has been difficult identifying carers in an unbiased way. Therefore it has been agreed that the telephone interviews will occur with paid carers working in residential and supported living establishments whose details will be identified through advocacy services
- Louise Cusack is in the process of writing the contract for the University of Brighton. Unfortunately due to the slight delay in this contract being agreed the research assistant would not be able to commence the focus groups until April at the earliest (depending on when the contract is agreed). This will delay the completion of the project.

Action still to be taken.

1. Awaiting COT ethics approval. Then NHS-REC approval will be sought for the focus groups and telephone interviews of carers
2. Once ethical permission has been agreed the regional focus groups will be scheduled to take place sometime in April.
3. Contract to be finalised between COT and the University of Brighton