



# ANNUAL REPORT

2006-07

**Name of Section:**

College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section: Mental Health

**Author of Report:** Julie Carr, Chair.

**Commentary:**

The Mental Health Specialist Section has had a very busy year in 06/07. Firstly there has again been the need to change administration company, this time to COT who are not in a position to offer the range of service the Specialist Section has been accustomed to, this has had it's challenges and is now due for the initial SLA to be reviewed. Despite this change and the almost entirely new executive committee, the volume of activity that the committee and the extended membership were able to maintain and develop has been impressive.

The Annual Conference was held in December 2006 and had the honour of hosting HRH Princess Anne at the highly successful event which incorporated the launch of the COT Mental Health Strategy "Recovering Ordinary Lives". This did have a knock on effect for the Forensic conference who delayed their conference to May 07 to accommodate the late Main Specialist Section conference, in the end this also proved to be a successful event.

We have put an enormous amount of time and effort into supporting the development, and now implementation of the College of Occupational Therapists Mental Health Strategy and have also worked very closely with the Secondee from COT to the Social Exclusion Unit and Coalition in support of the progress of the Mental Health Act '07. We have also had involvement in a number of high profile mental health initiatives (see activity list).

It should be noted that whilst on the whole the membership has been loyal and patient despite administrative delays and changes, there has been a significant drop in the membership over the past year. This is a matter which the Executive and Full Committee are in the process of addressing.

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**1. NEC: Names and Roles**

- 1 Leavers** – Terms of Office which ended at the AGM Dec 2006: Gabrielle Richards (Chair), Jane Clewes (Secretary), Rachel Christian-Edwards (Inpatient rep).  
Resigned: Eddie Duncan (Treasurer), Paul Stewart (Forensic rep) Julie Carr (PRO)
- 2 Joiners** - Julie Carr (Chair), Rachel Christian-Edwards (Treasurer), Rachel Brown (Secretary) Graeme Smith (PRO), Naomi Hankinson (Vice Chair), Katrina Bannigan (Co-opted Research), Anne Forsyth (Homelessness rep), Anne Cornell (Older persons rep), Sam Dewis (co-opted into inpatient rep post), (Debbie Alred co-opted into Forensic rep) Pruscilla Harries (editorial board) Jade Nixon (Co-opted Student Rep)

## 2. NEC Schedule of Meetings

12.12.06 AGM (postponed from May  
15/01/07 Executive Committee  
20/04/07 Full Committee  
20/06/07 Fringe meeting at COT conference

### Editorial Board meetings

13.02.2007  
12.06.2007  
11.10.2007

## 3. Number of Members: as of 23/08/07

	BAOT/COT Member	Student Member	Associated Member	Overseas Member	Other	Total
Year Start 1.10.06						485
Year End 30.9.07	561				49	610

## 4. Schedule of publications over the year

Volume 13, Issue 3, November 2006  
Volume 14, Issue 1, March 2007  
Volume 15, Issue 2, June 2007

## 5. Study days:

- Psychological aspects of Physical Illness study day
- Scottish Support Workers Study Day

## 6. Annual Conference

10<sup>th</sup> Annual conference, London in the presence of HRH Princess Anne

8th Annual Forensic Occupational Therapy Conference, Sheffield

## 7. List special talks/projects undertaken (in no specific order)

- Delivered a Mental Health Strategy Roadshow in the North West of England for COT
- Membership of the Mental Health Strategy implementation groups
- Worked with COT secondee to the Social Exclusion Unit
- Involved in the continued work of New Ways of Working for AHPs
- Involved with DoH in the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Involved with DoH in the consultation and workforce developments for the Deprivation of Liberty amendment

- Prepared letters to MP's and influential Lords in response to tabled amendments to the Mental Health Bill
- Provided evidence to the Joint Committee for Human Rights regarding competencies of Occupational Therapists in relation to the proposed new roles under the Mental Health Bill
- Member of the new roles steering group with the DoH in relation to the Mental Health Act '07
- Assisted in the writing of COT briefings regarding the Mental Health Act
- Assisted in the writing of COT briefings regarding the Mental Capacity Act
- Member of the DoH Steering Group developing Guidance for Employers regarding the Mental Health Act '07
- Involved with the Collation and support in the progress of the Mental Health Act '07
- Spoke with the Minister for Health on behalf of COT in relation to the MHA'07
- Lobbied the Lords for COT regarding the Mental Health Act '07
- Consulted on the Training sets for the new roles under the Mental Health Act '07
- Member of the AIM's project, an Accreditation Scheme for Inpatient Services, and Accreditation Group
- Registered stakeholders on behalf of COT on the development of NICE guidance on Post Natal Depression
- Responded to scoping process for the review of the NICE guidelines for Schizophrenia and Depression.
- Charing of paper presentations at COT conference
- Supported COT engagement session for mental health strategy at COT conference
- Numerous contributions at local, national and international level to enquiries re Occupational Therapy and mental health.
- Providing COTSSMH-SIGED stakeholder feedback to the Royal College of Psychiatrist's Centre for Quality Improvement on Priorities for a national audit of eating disorders services
- Submitted a response to the DH CPA Review Consultation
- Assisted COT with writing submission for "Finding a shared vision of how people's mental health problems should be understood "multidisciplinary document.

8. Business Plan – outcomes from previous year

Objective	Task	Person heading	Target	Budget	Activity Indicator	Progress
<b>1. to engage in the specialist section implementation process of the PKF Report</b>		Julie Carr			Project sign off at SSBF	Ongoing
<b>2. to engage a new administration company to provide membership services</b>	Identify options for administration	Gabrielle Richards, now Julie Carr	Comprehensive effective and efficient administration of the Mental Health Specialist Section	To be reviewed	COT engaged to provide services  SLA due for review	Ongoing
<b>3. to provide comprehensive and reliable membership services</b>	Produce 3 magazines	Jane Clewes	Timely receipt of magazines	See finance report	3 magazines produced	<b>Completed</b>
	Respond to members enquiries	All Committee members  Rachel Barker	Timely responses  Regular review of site		Email trail, compliments/ Complaints  Reports to committee  Review of website and contents  Review of discussion pages	Ongoing
	Ensure up to date website	Julie Carr/ Rachel Christian-Edwards	Invitation got members to submit comments and subjections for improvements		Review of communication strategy  Option appraisal to committee	Ongoing
<b>4. to implement COTSS-MH Research &amp; Development Strategy</b>	Inclusion within Conference	Katrina Brannigan	Launch of the Centre	N/A  TBA	Launch  Publicity  Sign up of researchers  Sign up of research projects  Sign up as Partners the co-opting of a research and development officer to the Executive	<b>Completed</b>
	Review R&D Strategy		Draft review of current strategy document		Draft R&D strategy review  Review of reinstatement of research grants	Ongoing
<b>5. to engage in the development of the COT Mental Health Strategy</b>	Production of strategy	Members of Committee	Launch in December '06		Launch of strategy at Conference '06	<b>Completed</b>

<b>6. to engage in the implementation of the COT Mental Health Strategy</b>	Successful production of the Strategy and ongoing reference and support of implementation	Committee Members	Improve profile of OT in mental health  Concensus in direction of profession over next 10 years		Membership of task groups  Publicity  Speakers at Roadshow Presentations  Launch of Strategy at Conference '06	<b>Completed</b>  Ongoing  <b>Completed</b>  <b>Completed</b>
<b>7. to take forward joint working relationship/ membership activity with other specialist sections</b>		Julie Carr And Naomi Hankinson	Effective co-operation between Specialist Sections  To improve membership services	TBA  TBA	Option appraisal of joint memberships  Plans for joint run study events  Restructuring of committee posts to reflect links	Ongoing  Ongoing  <b>Completed</b>
<b>8. to engage conference administration</b>	To engage conference administration for Forensic Conference  To engage conference administration for annual conference	Forensic Group  Julie Carr And Rachel Christian-Edwards		TBA	Professional Briefings administered the Forensic Conference '07  Successfully negotiate a contract to effectively administrate conference	<b>Completed</b>  <b>Partially completed</b>
<b>9. to continue to engage in good practice initiatives and consultations in relation to mental health</b>		All members			See activities at 7 above	Ongoing
<b>10. to best represent service user involvement in COTSS-MH</b>		All Members			Service user contribution to the magazine, conference and study days and speakers at conference	Ongoing

## **9. Business Plan and Budget forecast for forthcoming year**

See Treasurers report and submission of finances

## **10. Update on website**

The web site is intended to receive focused review over the coming year. This was a matter of consultation at the COT Conference fringe meeting in June. The web site has received much constructive criticism. It is recognised that the Specialist Section - Mental Health web page has a consistently high hit rate, but is currently failing in meeting the needs and expectations of the membership, and the potential membership.

The committee's student representative has recently agreed to take the review of the site and its application into her portfolio. This work stream has been accorded the status of a standing agenda item in committee meetings with the commitment of the executive to address shortfalls in its current range and applications.

## **Any other relevant information**