The College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section – People with Learning Disabilities functions to support members of the Occupational Therapy profession involved in working with people with learning disabilities.
The College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section–People with Learning Disabilities is an interest group for occupational therapy staff who work with or would like to work with people with learning disabilities. Our membership is made up of Occupational Therapists of all grades, including students. They work in a range of different settings and have varying levels of experience.

Function of the Specialist Section

• To promote high standards of occupational therapy practice for people with learning disabilities

• To unite and encourage maximum interaction and support between members of the profession working with people with learning disabilities

• To share expertise, techniques, ideas and new information

• To organise and encourage participation in educational events

• To encourage collaboration and understanding between occupational therapy and other disciplines

• To emphasise the importance of educating occupational therapy students and other practitioners about the needs of people with learning disabilities

• To act in an advisory capacity both locally and nationally

• To promote the use of evidence based practice within the speciality by encouraging, supporting, undertaking research and developing documents such as practice guidelines

• To act as a contact point for advice on the needs of people with learning disabilities to the College of Occupational Therapists (COT) and other national organisations
Membership benefits:

• You will receive a quarterly newsletter and have access to a range of resources which are continually being developed

• You will be part of a network of occupational therapists working with people with learning disabilities. You can use this network for support and advice

• You will have access to resources on our web pages

• You will get reduced rates at COT Specialist Section–People with Learning Disability events, including our annual conference

• You will have a committee representing your interests at a national level

• You will receive updates on the latest research and policy concerning people with learning disabilities

• You will be able to network both nationally and locally

• There will be an opportunity to apply for grant money for locality groups whose attendees are members of the Specialist Section. This funding can be used to support training events, Continuing Professional Development activity or the development of a project
How do you join?
Membership is open to all occupational therapists, occupational therapy students and retired occupational therapists who are members of The British Association of Occupational Therapists.

Our membership year runs between 1st October and 30th September and is renewable annually.

Please refer to our web pages on the COT website for current fees and a membership form. This can be found at www.cot.co.uk/cotss-people-learning-disabilities/become-member

Please send completed application forms electronically to cotsspld@hotmail.co.uk
BACS payments are preferable but you can also pay by cheque. When sending money please ensure that is made clear on your transfer or cheque that the payment is intended for COTSSPLD not COT. Once a completed membership form and payment has been received we will email you confirmation of membership. If you do not receive any correspondence with in 1 month please contact us via cotsspld@hotmail.co.uk as there maybe a problem with your email address preventing you receiving information from us. This can be easily resolved once we are aware.

Any queries should be addressed to the membership secretary via cotsspld@hotmail.co.uk