



Setting OT Alight 4th Lothian Occupational Therapy Conference

Edinburgh City Chambers
19th April 2012

Call for papers



We are delighted to announce the 4th Lothian Occupational Therapy Conference.

The conference is open to all Occupational Therapy staff working in Lothian. The aim of the conference is to provide an opportunity to promote good practice, exchange ideas and look forward to the future of occupational therapy. This is an excellent opportunity for all grades of staff to participate and gain experience in making conference presentations to an audience of peers.

This year's theme is Setting OT Alight, the planning group have been inspired by the forthcoming London 2012 Olympics and we want to hear about your achievements in OT over the past year, what are you and your colleagues hoping to achieve in 2012? And where is the profession in Lothian heading beyond 2012?

We invite you to submit outlines for either a verbal presentation, poster presentation or a short workshop. Verbal presentations should be 15 minutes in total, 10 minutes presentation followed by 5 minutes question and answer. Posters should be A1 size. Workshops can be either 30 minutes or 60 minutes.

The deadline for submissions of presentation/workshop outline is Friday 12th November 2011. Please complete the attached outline submission form and return to:

Kirsty.dewar@edinburgh.gov.uk

or

Kirsty Dewar
Workforce Planning & Development
Health & Social Care
Level 1.7 Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to seeing you in April 2012
Further information about the conference will follow in due course

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Outline submission

Title of presentation: Occupational therapists' perceptions of preterm children's academic difficulties in the early years of mainstream schooling

Outline of topic to be presented (max 200 words)

Preterm infants born before 37 weeks of gestation constitute up to 10% of all births, and can display development that, frequently, differs from those of full-term infants. Studies indicate that school children born preterm present with a, generally, higher incidence of performing poorly academically. This paper discusses the findings of a PhD study which investigated the perceptions of paediatric OTs regarding the type of difficulties with which children born preterm present, and explored the role of OT when working with this paediatric client group.

In the first, quantitative part of this study, paediatric OTs completed a postal questionnaire (N=353). The second, qualitative part, used asynchronous, online discussions (N=13), by utilising a virtual learning environment to further explore the most pertinent topics.

The survey was, among other reasons, designed to capture:

- information on the extent of this paediatric population within OT services in the UK, and how identifiable and accessible it is
- OT practices (assessment; intervention) when working with these children
- what informs therapists' clinical decision making, given the limited research and literature on the topic

The discussion groups provided a forum for OTs' "reflexive comment" on the issues emerging from the questionnaire analysis.

Verbal presentation, poster presentation, workshop facilitator (please indicate): Verbal presentation

Name and address of presenter

**Dr Maria Giatsi Clausenj
Queen Margaret University
Queen Margaret University Drive
Musselburgh
EH21 6UU**

Deadline for submissions 12th November 2012, Thank you.