

COT/OTPLD Project Progress Report Spring newsletter

Two members of the COTSS-PLD NEC (Alison Lillywhite and David Haines) are now taking a lead role in the project. It has been a busy few months with the following actions occurring:

- Rebecca Pockney presented the results of phase one of the study (the audit) at the COTSS-PLD conference in November. The findings will be made available on the website once the entire project is complete.
- Ethical approval for the research parts of the project was received from the College of Occupational Therapists in January 2008.
- On 27th February the project was approved by the NHS National Research Ethics Service.
- We are in the process of contracting with University of Brighton to engage a Research Officer who will be running the focus groups for us.
- Carers were originally going to be contacted within the final phase of this study however it has been difficult identifying them in an unbiased way. Therefore it has been agreed that we will interview by telephone paid carers working in residential and supported living establishments and their details will be identified through advocacy services.

Action still to be taken.

1. Contract to be finalised between COT and the University of Brighton for the Research Officer to run the focus groups in April and May.
2. We have *some* volunteers for the focus group (people who expressed an interest during the audit). Now that we have ethical clearance, however, we have begun actively to recruit more (see poster on page []). If you are an occupational therapists with experience of working with people with learning disabilities and would like to take part, please email us at cotsspld@hotmail.co.uk as we would really like to hear from you.