



Research priorities survey: Facilitated discussion guide

Introduction

The purpose of a facilitated discussion is to encourage and enable the contribution of people who are unable or unlikely to take part in the OT PSP's survey. Questions and comments generated through a facilitated discussion can then be integrated into the material being collected via the survey.

The aim of the Occupational Therapy JLA Priority Setting Partnership survey is to collect questions about occupational therapy from people who access occupational therapy, their carers, occupational therapists and others working in the health and social care environment who have a view about occupational therapy. These questions will inform the development of a list of potential future research questions.

A Welsh language and an easy read version of the survey questionnaire are also available.

Participants

Participants in facilitated discussion groups may be:

- people with experience of accessing occupational therapy;
- carers of people who access occupational therapy;
- occupational therapists and pre-registration occupational therapy students; and
- others who meet occupational therapists during the course of their work.

Participants will be advised by the discussion facilitator that the following group principles apply:

- Taking part in the discussion group is entirely voluntary.
- They can stop taking part at any time without needing to provide a reason.
- Their contributions to the discussion will be anonymous. It will not be possible to identify those participating in the discussion or to attribute any comment or question to an individual participant. Participants should also respect each others confidentiality.
- Demographic data collected at the end of the survey will be done so on a group basis, and only with the consent of those involved. If an individual does not wish their information to contribute to the data collected in this section of the survey, they can opt out while still contributing to the discussion and other group responses to the main questions within the survey.
- It is not their responsibility to form exact research questions or to ensure that their question is unanswered. This will be done by the Project Team at a later stage. All questions and comments are welcome, no matter how big or small. All questions and comments hold equal value and the right to respect difference of opinion within the group must be reinforced.
- A summary of the discussion will be submitted to RCOT, participants will be anonymous and will not be identified.



Using the survey questionnaire – to guide the discussion

The facilitator will need access to a copy of the survey questionnaire which can be downloaded from www.rcot.co.uk/otpsp

The facilitator will reinforce the discussion group principles and talk through the introductory wording of the survey, to explain the project and its purpose. There is more information about the Priority Setting Partnership at www.rcot.co.uk/otpsp.

The survey questionnaire includes demographic questions. These questions allow the project team to check that we are hearing from a broad range of people. As set out above, participants will be advised that they can opt out of contributing demographic data whilst continuing to contribute to the discussion.

The facilitator may want to start by asking members of the group to introduce themselves and explain their connection to Occupational Therapy.

They will then introduce the questions one at a time and support discussion with the group:

1. What questions do you have about occupational therapy that you haven't been able to find the answer to?

Suggested prompts: questions or comments about having OT, what the OT has done for you, things that have worked even though you don't quite know why or how, things that have not worked and you wonder why not.

2. What questions do you have about the difference that occupational therapy makes to people's lives?

Suggested prompts: what you would like OT to be able to do, what works, what does not work, what more do you think it might be able to do, what doesn't it do well at the moment, what does it neglect to consider at the moment.

The questions are open and the subject matter is broad which can make them challenging. The aim is to facilitate a discussion and guide people to ask questions or make comments that relate directly to occupational therapy rather than the surrounding issues like getting an appointment, waiting lists, funding, etc.

How do you submit a summary of your discussion?

The facilitator will add the key points, comments and questions that emerge from the discussion to the online survey questionnaire or post a hard copy, or scan the hard copy and email it, to ruth.unstead-joss@rcot.co.uk

Further information

If you require any additional information then please contact:

Ruth Unstead-Joss, Project Co-ordinator – ruth.unstead-joss@rcot.co.uk

Jenny Mac Donnell, Project Lead – jenny.macdonnell@rcot.co.uk

Thank you for facilitating this discussion.