

Nikie Catchpool DipCOT OTR MA

Nikie has worked as an Occupational Therapist for the past 19 years, working predominantly with people with long term conditions, many of whom have had difficulties maintaining paid employment. Her most recent employment history includes working in the school system in the state of New Mexico USA, Research Therapist funded by the Medical Devices Agency and Head Occupational Therapist in Rheumatology shared with a colleague Anne Johnson who is now the public relations officer for COTSS Work. In 2000, Nikie had the privilege of being a member of a team that reached the NHS Team of the Year Final with a project focussing on the management of the unstable rheumatoid spine.

In 2004 Nikie was jointly involved, with Anne Johnson in submitting a successful bid to the Department of Health for funding to set up the Bath and Wiltshire CFS/ME service. This service has grown and developed significantly over the last 4 years and has led to her involvement in the writing of the National Guideline for Occupational Aspects of the Management of CFS.

In 2006, Nikie successfully completed an MA in Applied Social Research with a dissertation focussing on the employers perspective of employing someone with CFS/ME. This paper was presented at the COT Annual Conference in Harrogate 2008.

Nikie has had 5 years interesting years being involved with the committee for the College of Occupational Therapy Specialist Section in Work. She took on the role of treasurer at the end of 2003, and has now taken on the role of Vice Chair for the section. This is a new post for the section and the role is still developing and emerging.