

From the other side of the fence

Claire Jones BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy



Biography

Claire is an OT working in Acute Mental Health Inpatients. In 2008, she became very interested in the possibilities that Social Media presents for personal and professional development of clinicians, and in health service development in a partnership model with other stakeholders. Claire developed her interest in digital technology when investigating ways of facilitating communications within and between partner organisations, Trust services, and service users as part of a strategic view of local gardening projects. This won her the 2010 Trust Award for Involvement. She maintains her blog at claireot.wordpress.com to document her impressions of the potential uses of new media in mental health practice for OTs.

Claire became a wheelchair user in spring 2010, due to a pregnancy related injury. Since then, she has maintained a blog in a narrative style about her transition from OT to OT on wheels. In her blog, she reflects on the difficulties and successes in her role as Mum, and as an OT. Claire has also blogged about her experiences of the health and social care services from the dual perspective of service provider and service user. She also talks about how the personalisation agenda has affected her, and how online environments have been key to her occupational adaptation.

Claire lives in the North of England with her partner, two delicious daughters, and two elderly cats.

Abstract

In her presentation, Claire will discuss how occupational disruption due to mobility issues and pain led to changed roles and routines, the challenges of parenting with a disability, and the development of a new occupational identity, as an OT on wheels.