**OT News article following conference.**

**The first national conference of occupational therapists working in diverse settings: September 2016.**

Wednesday 7th September 2016 saw the first national conference being held for occupational therapists working in diverse settings. Over 60 practitioners, researchers and academics from all over the UK and Europe (making it in fact the first international conference) came together at the University of Brighton in Eastbourne for an event facilitated by Dr Channine Clarke and Sarah Mead who have a long standing interest and passion for this area of practice.

The day started with an inspiring presentation by Professor Gaynor Sadlo who challenged delegates to consider the application of occupational science in diverse settings. Sarah Mead then facilitated a workshop that explored the evidence occupational therapists could use to demonstrate HCPC standards whilst working in diverse settings. Dr Nick Pollard, joining the conference virtually in the afternoon due to rail strike, then provided an interesting presentation of using narratives and community publishing before Dr Channine Clarke facilitated the second workshop of the day considering the use of outcome measures in diverse settings. Julia Scott, Chief Executive of the College of Occupational Therapists, closed the day with a thought provoking summary of key points from the day as well as setting some challenges for delegates to go away and consider.

The aim of the day was to start creating a community of practice for therapists working in diverse settings and feedback was very positive from all those who attended, valuing the opportunity for CPD, networking and sharing best practice.

We hope that this will be the start of an annual event and plans for September 2017 are already taking shape. If you are interested in finding out more then please contact Channine or Sarah: [C.clarke@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:C.clarke@brighton.ac.uk), [S.Mead3@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:S.Mead3@brighton.ac.uk)