

AbleOTUK -Newsletter

Easier Access to AbleOTUK Support Sessions

You're automatically a member of AbleOTUK if you're on our mailing list. Our support network is for occupational therapists and students with lived experience of disability, neurodivergence, or long-term health conditions.

Sessions run online at 7 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. You'll receive an email with the joining information on the day of each meeting.

To protect confidentiality, we don't send diary invites or share members' contact details, so please add the dates to your own diary.

Upcoming Support Network Dates (7pm):

10th December 2025.
 14th January 2026.
 11th February 2026.
 11th March 2026
 8th April 2026
 13th May 2026
 10th June 2026.
 8th July 2026
 12th August 2026
 9th September 2026
 14th October 2026
 11th November 2026
 9th December 2026



Disability History Month runs this year from 20 November to 20 December.

It exists to recognise the history of disabled people in the UK, the ongoing struggle for equality, and the impact of discrimination across generations. The month encourages learning, reflection, and action by highlighting how the past continues to shape the present.

This year's theme is **"Disability, Life and Death."** The theme invites people to look closely at the ways disabled lives have been valued or devalued through history, including the impact of neglect, exclusion, institutional practices, and the denial of rights. It asks us to acknowledge difficult truths, to recognise the resilience and leadership of disabled people, and to challenge the attitudes and systems that continue to cause harm today.

The month also includes key dates that connect disability with wider human rights and health movements:

- **20 November** - Start of Disability History Month
- **1 December** - World AIDS Day
- **3 December** - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- **10 December** - Human Rights Day
- **20 December** - End of Disability History Month


These dates underscore the connection between disability rights and the broader struggle for dignity, justice, and equality.


Don't forget to join us in person in London!



We're excited to invite you to an AbleOTUK in-person meet-up at the V&A Museum in London on Saturday, 13th December 2025, to explore the *Disability and Design* exhibition together. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow members, discover inclusive design, and enjoy time together in a relaxed, creative space.

Meet-up details:

 V&A Museum, South Kensington, London

 Meet outside the museum at 11.00 am

Exhibition entry: Please book a ticket for 11.15 am or 11.30 am

Tickets: Range from free to £16

Disabled visitors: Free ticket + free companion/carer ticket

Book early as time slots sell out – [Book here](#)

If you'd like to join our optional WhatsApp group for the day, email us at ableotuk@gmail.com with your name and mobile number once you've booked.

Inclusive learning — national webinar on reasonable adjustments

On 19 November 2025, the Council of Deans of Health (CoDH) hosted a webinar titled *Creating Inclusive Learning Environments: Reasonable Adjustments in Healthcare Education*. The session explored how UK healthcare education can better support students with disabilities, long-term health conditions or additional learning needs. Speakers discussed what counts as “reasonable adjustments” from curriculum design to assessment modification and the challenges education providers face in implementing them.

One of our founding members, Georgia Vine (on behalf of Royal College of Occupational Therapists), took part in the panel – emphasising the importance of disclosure and structural support for reasonable adjustments in occupational therapy (and wider healthcare) education.

If you missed the live event, you can watch the full webinar again via the CoDH “Watch Again” link. [Council of Deans of Health+1](#)

UK Covid Inquiry: Module 2 Report Published

The UK Covid Inquiry has released its Module 2 report on core government decision-making. Baroness Hallett described the government’s approach as too little, too late. Of particular relevance to our community are the findings that “*the potential for long-term sequelae arising from infection and any developing understanding should be communicated to the public*” and that “*consideration of long-term sequelae must be built into any strategy and supporting plans.*”

For occupational therapists and the wider healthcare workforce, this highlights the ongoing need to understand the potential impact of Long Covid. Practitioners must be prepared to support people to assess risk, navigate activity demands and make informed decisions about managing their health.

You can read the full report here

<https://covid19.public-inquiry.uk/documents/module-2-full-report/>