

Job roles factsheet:

What does my occupational therapist do?

» What do Hartlepool's occupational therapists do?

Our occupational therapists (OTs) work with adults and children who struggle with everyday tasks due to disability, illness or frailty. OTs work with their clients to agree the best way of helping them carry out these tasks so that they can live as independently as possible. They do this by providing equipment such as walking sticks or bath aids or assessing for adaptations such as stairlifts, ramps or additional banister rails.

OTs are responsible for carrying out moving and handling risk assessments. For example, if anyone needed to be hoisted at home it is the OT's responsibility to train the carers and/or family members to use the hoisting equipment safely and correctly.

The Occupational Therapy team covers all areas of social care in Hartlepool, including:

- adult social care
- children's social care
- learning disability services, and
- mental health services

» Facts and figures

The team gets between 150 and 180 new cases – or **referrals** – each month. Most of these referrals come through the social care **Duty team**, but some come from social workers, local hospitals and the Primary Care Trust (PCT). Around 8 in every 10 of our new referrals are for people aged 80 or over.

We employ 5 occupational therapists (OTs) and 6 occupational therapy assistants (OTAs). OTAs are able to work on the majority of cases, though more complex cases are dealt with by OTs.

Our OTs and OTAs work from different buildings located throughout Hartlepool.

» About this factsheet

This factsheet tells you about the role of Hartlepool's occupational therapists. We issued this factsheet in July 2011. We will check the information is up to date in July 2012.

» Other useful factsheets

Title	Reference
■ How to contact us	Factsheet 01
■ What we do	Factsheet 02
■ What does the Duty team do?	Factsheet 32



You can download all of our factsheets from www.hartlepool.gov.uk/factsheets
If you do not have access to the internet you can request factsheets from our administration team on 01429 523745