

Message from the Chair

Summer time and the Living is easy? Not for most of the country it seems: hope members are coping in any of the worst affected areas.

We are developing our usual programme – with twin events planned for November on the Children’s (8th November) and Adult’s (9th November) performance agenda.

Plans are also afoot to develop a project mapping resources research on ethnicity and racism in public services, in collaboration with the Race Equality Foundation and Involve. This is being planned as part of the development of further events and activities on this topic.

Our new look is being finalised so breath will have to be bated for a further few months – the big unveiling is also being planned for the Annual Workshop in Manchester 7-9th April. We have decided on a low key but stylish launch. The cost of dry ice proved prohibitive and the London Philharmonic were already booked...

The Annual Workshop is shaping up well, we plan again to keep the focus generic, but with streams of workshops to ensure that each day will be useful for people with specialist interests.

We would like to respond



Martin Stevens

to the consultation about the children services performance management and the degree of impact on local authorities, from the ‘Lifting the Burden Task Force’ This is an independent, practitioner body that has been set up to review the bureaucratic and performance management burdens that exist as a consequence of the current relationship between Central and Local Government. Information about this is reported elsewhere in the Newsletter – please send us your views about the consultation to inform a SSRG response. Without a good response from members, we cannot hope to give a considered SSRG response. Further, I would encourage you to respond on your own behalf

as the number of responses is as important as having a joint SSRG response.

More input is also needed about the SSRG website (www.ssr.org.uk). This is in need of some development work, which we are planning. Please send in any comments or suggestions for how this could work to me at martin.stevens@kcl.ac.uk

Watch out for the second edition of the Research Governance Resource Pack, which is currently hosted on our website. This is being produced over the next few weeks. Two EC members (and a valued former EC member), along with other SSRG members wearing different hats are contributing to the development of this document, which has proved valuable to those struggling with Research Governance over the past few years. This is part of the ongoing work of the Research Governance in Social Care Advisory Group, which is also participating in discussions about the development of ethical review processes in social care. This has been a long terms commitment of SSRG time for several years and though progress is slow,