

Message from the Chair

A belated Happy New Year to all our readers: still trying to implement my usual 'Pull your socks up' resolution to get organised – completed this before being reminded by the editor... actually that makes two in a row (not that I see this as homework of course.)



Martin Stevens

So, news from SSRG...

Our relationship with the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has been crucially important for SSRG; SCIE have supported our website and Annual Workshop for many years now, and we have supported various SCIE developments, such as the Research Register for Social Care and the Social Care Research Ethics Committee.

The aims of the two organisations are very much in harmony, which suggests that extra emphasis can be placed on the organisation. However we have felt for some time that SSRG could be more active in this alliance, and so we arranged a meeting with Julie Jones, Chief Exec of SCIE along with other senior members of staff and, they agreed. We have now been invited to take part in the

two agenda setting processes for SCIE, the 'Topic Board' Awayday and the Partners Council'. I think this is a hugely valuable opportunity to present members' perspectives on the role for SCIE, which should be of value to both organisations. SO,... Please send me ideas for areas that SCIE could do more or less of...

A very successful event was held by SSRG Scotland, focusing on Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs), which are one of the big acronyms of Scottish Government and set the relationship between central government and local governance in the widest sense. The event explored the extent to which SOAs take us in measuring outcomes, where do they reside in relation to the 'big picture' and what else is needed? See article in this edition for further details. Comparing the approach North and South of the border, would provide a useful joint development from this event, which we may want to explore in the future?

The Annual Workshop is now dominating the horizon for SSRG, our annual opportunity to hear from policy makers, researchers and local authority SSRG members about the latest developments and topics of interest. The full programme (and it is full) is in the newsletter, so I hope to see a huge number of members (and 'friends' or future members, as they are known) there. Person – cantred

Care, outcomes and safeguarding are the main focus this year, all presented through policy, performance and research lenses. In addition, the Annual Workshop provides an excellent opportunity to network with a wide cross section of managers, practitioners and academics from across the field, which has always been an invaluable way to learn about others' approaches and to trumpet your own...

The AGM of course will be held at the Annual Workshop – this is a central chance to hear about SSRG activities, to question the EC and suggest new directions, so I hope to see you there.

New SSRG events are in the planning stage for later in the year: watch out for an event on Children's Safeguarding which we are running on behalf of the Children's Services Research Forum with money from the Children's Services Research Group. Topics we are discussing include the Health and Social Care interface – Research Governance, Early Years' Indicators, but the agenda is always open for input (as usual).

Sadly, this was finished a long time after Fratton. It is dark here in this siding.

*Martin Stevens
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