

Message from the Chair

A belated, snowy Happy New Year to you all! The snow has (deeply, crisply) even hit Portsmouth, making this officially a cold winter!*

Of course this is sadly more likely to be a signifier not of the absence of global warming, but of its unpredictable side effects, although mainly just a slight outlier in meteorological history. Not that this does not make it cold, of course, though a thaw is supposed to be in sight, as write so when you read this, it will be a dim memory... Frustrating and difficult it is for people travelling and particularly for frontline social care workers getting to people's homes, not to say dangerous as well, I will be also be sad to see it go. Given its rarity, the different outlook has made for a diverting start to the New Year. Admittedly, there speaks a 'Soft southerner' who is not battling to get to people's homes along frozen un-gritted roads and pavements (and who works at home much of the time).

So what's new? Interesting developments in terms of the national college of social work, which Hilton Dawson, the chief Executive of BASW will no doubt explore at the Annual Workshop. This is shaping up nicely, now, with almost a full programme. The call for papers was well supported and we were in the good position of having more than enough good quality papers to choose from. The altered, leaner programme this year will also include plenaries from Alan Rosenbach, from the Care Quality Commission and Adam King from Ofsted, to hear the latest developments in inspection.



Martin Stevens

Professor Martin Knapp, the director of the National Institute for Health Research School for Social Care Research will give news of social care research funding, and how the school contribute to increasing the evidence base for adult social care. The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services will also give a perspective on developing the evidence base in children's services.

We are planning a summer event to explore how 'knowledge' derived from inspection, research and performance information is used to improve services for diverse populations. We hope to attract speakers from the national bodies such as the Race Equality Foundation and Stonewall, in addition to contributions from those working on developing new

developments locally. If you have a local project you would like to present at such an event, please contact David Henderson, (DHender421@aol.com) with details. Watch this space and other spaces for further info.

Also in the news is the Care Quality Commission's relationship with local authorities, which has been raised by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS). This has been particularly focused on information sharing. SSRG members with particular experiences, positive or negative are being asked in this edition of the newsletter to send in comments in order that SSRG can add a voice to this debate. Estelle Buscombe is collating responses, so please send in comments to her.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Workshop and other SSRG events in 2010!

Martin Stevens, Chair

** From the Christmas Crackers*

Q: How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizza?

A: *Deep and Crisp and Even*

Q: What illness are you likely to get putting decorations up?

A: *Tinsillitis*

Q: What did Snow White sing as she was waiting for her photographs?

A: *"Someday my prints will come..."*