

## **Editorial**

Welcome to the new cover design, bringing the Journal in line with the updated SSRG logo and livery. We think you will find the articles in this edition equally refreshing and would welcome any comments you might have on the design and content, and any suggestions you have for the content of future editions.

We open this Spring edition with an article by Lesley Noaks on holistic approaches to early intervention. Drawing on empirical research undertaken as part of an evaluation of the 'On Track' early intervention programme she reviews the strategic shift in the promotion of partnership and the key factors involved in implementation of the programme. From this, other partnership projects may gain new insights into what works in delivering integrated services.

Michele Abendstern and colleagues discuss the literature review they undertook on the impact of the implementation of the Single Assessment Process (SAP) for older people. Issues that may help or hinder effective implementation of the SAP are identified and potential tensions between different policy aims are exposed. Issues in assessment practice which were historically contentious seem likely to remain relevant to the implementation of this policy.

Next, Rachel Winder and colleagues report the results of their qualitative interview study and consider why benefits uptake in the older population is lower than in other age groups. The valuable role of specialist benefits advice workers is confirmed and the need for more anticipatory approaches in identifying vulnerable adults is identified.

Janet Warren reports key findings from her doctoral research on young carers, identifying a group of children and young people not formally recognised in their role as carers. She highlights the need for greater professional awareness of the caring roles of children, earlier intervention and effective collaborative practices to ensure that all concerned receive the services they need.

Finally, Ian Shaw provides an historical overview of the complex interplay between social work, science and research. Looking at early social work, and identifying key changes and continuities in contemporary UK social work research and knowledge generation, the paper provides critical reflection on the relationship between social work, science and claims to expertise.

We are also pleased to include reviews of three new and important books. One is a research-based text on children and young people in care, the other two texts address current themes in generic social work practice.

As with previous editions, we have assembled a varied selection of articles and reviews which will be of interest to our wide readership of social care practitioners, trainers, managers and researchers. If you have thoughts about developing a paper about current issues in practice or theory, or would like to review a book, we would like to hear from you. Contact details and submission guidelines can be found at <http://www.ssr.org.uk/publications/rpp/index.asp>.

With best wishes from the editorial team: Sue Harrington, Greg Mantle, Andy Pithouse and Peter Scourfield