

Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Research and Practice. The journal was successfully launched at an event held in the Castle Hill Suite at the University of Huddersfield, on the 2nd November 2004. The launch was attended by the Dean of Human and Health Sciences from the University, the Chief Executive of South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust, the Editorial Board, peer reviewers and authors, in addition to guests from partner organisations. We have also received good feedback from people who were not able to attend the launch but had received and read a copy of the journal. The following are two examples of the feedback we have received so far:

"This is a valuable resource for anyone interested in these important issues – particularly the links between research and practice in an under-researched and under-provided client group. Your new journal has great potential." (Prof Glenys Parry)

"There is a gap in the market that could usefully be exploited now that the Journal of Mental Health has moved away from its traditional service development focus and more towards purest research. The MH&LDR&P could usefully exploit this gap and also provide a service development focus as well as that of practice development." (Dr Tony Ryan).

The journal has received a great deal of interest since its launch and appears to be filling a niche in the market. Since the publication of the first edition, we have had expressions of interest from other organisations who are interested in becoming partners in the venture. We will be looking at possible expansion over the next twelve months.

In this edition we are introducing a new section called 'Points of View'. This section asks authors to reflect on their personal point of view or experience of service delivery or practice, educational or service development, or involvement in a research project. In the article 'The Most Horrendous Day of Our Lives' we have a perspective on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from both a service user and a clinician, together with a list of sources of help.

The Editors hope that once again you will find the range of articles in the journal interesting and informative. Finally, we hope that many more of our readers will put pen to paper, or finger to keyboard, and contribute to the journal.