



Foreword

Colleagues,

We are delighted to introduce this exciting new journal. The University of Huddersfield and South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust have a commitment to develop excellent services based on the most contemporary evidence and underpinned by a spirit of enquiry. The University and Trust believe that research must inform us all of what works best to meet the needs of the people who use our services, improve our interventions and support their recovery. We must ensure colleagues have easy and rapid access to evidence that will improve the experience of the people we serve and our own working lives. Both organisations are committed to encouraging research that develops and expands the evidence base and to evidence based practice that utilises the best research evidence available. Wherever possible we actively engage those who use our services in that process. We are also committed to ensure education and training meets the needs of the workforce and supports the modernisation of services.

We are always learning from our own experience and from research evidence about ways to improve the experience of people with mental health problems and learning disabilities. It is essential that we have ready access to the findings of the latest research evidence and it is particularly exciting when that evidence is being generated in our own services, locally, and through our collaborative programmes of research. This journal is intended to capture such evidence and share it in ways that will help you to inform and transform everyday practice. In this way we will help to make a difference to the lives of the people we serve.

Both the University and the South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust are keen to work in partnership with other organisations to achieve their aims in relation to research and scholarship that underpins excellent practice and service development. This includes working with a range of organisations such as National Institute for Mental Health England (NIMHE) and other Universities across the North of England including

York, Leeds and Sheffield. Such partnerships help us in developing knowledge that ensures that wherever people use our services there is a coherent programme of support which helps them stay in control of their lives and the choices they make. This extends to research partnerships with other health and social care organisations including Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Trust, Mid Yorkshire Hospitals Trust and West Yorkshire Primary Care Trusts as well as other providers across the northern region. Increasingly our key partners are also Local Authorities, Education Services, Community Justice agencies and Employment and Leisure services. We hope this journal informs and includes colleagues across all of these partnerships.

This journal has been possible because of the joint work between the University of Huddersfield and the South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust. The journal provides some examples of the opportunities that have been created for people from both organisations and the people who use services to develop research projects, some of which are partnerships with other health and social care providers. Developing the journal has required commitment from the editorial team and reviewers. It is this fantastic spirit of endeavour that provides the energy to make this new journal successful in making a real contribution to our practice locally and inform the wider regional and national community. This is your journal created and owned by local staff and services. I hope that you enjoy reading it and will make an active contribution by sharing your thoughts, ideas and experiences in future editions. Congratulations to all of the team that have brought to fruition such a timely and appropriate way to share local and national work with colleagues, partners, and those who use our services.

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