

Editorial

Leadership and management in social work

Welcome to this special edition of *Social Work and Social Sciences Review*, which is the first of two issues concerned with the theme of Leadership and Management issues for social work. The special editions have been produced following a proposal from the guest Editors, Dr. John Lawler (Senior Lecturer in Public Sector Management at the University of Bradford) and Trish Hafford-Letchfield, (Senior Lecturer in Interprofessional Learning & Teaching Fellow at Middlesex University) and led to a call for papers being circulated widely and comprehensively. The response to this call has exceeded expectations in terms of both the quality of the debates represented and also the geographic reach, with papers from a range of countries outside the UK.

The theme of leadership has been at the forefront of public sector development in the UK for some time and has been applied within education, health, policing and social care, with mixed results and reactions from the professionals and practitioners in these sectors. We make no apology for focussing our attention primarily on social work as a profession and readers will find, I am sure, that the articles published in this and the next edition of the journal focus on the pertinent and essential issues arising from applying particular models of management to the social work tasks and environments.

Our guest editors for these issue are to be congratulated for generating such a strong response to the call for papers and also for managing the editorial processes required in ensuring that high quality articles are delivered in a timely way, following robust peer review and amendments, with support from the rest of the Editorial Board for *Social Work and Social Sciences Review*. The demands of producing journal issues are not to be underestimated, especially since those who contribute to the editorial process often do so in their 'spare time', given the demands and constraints of being a social work academic. Practitioner or manager.

There is an urgent need for journals to reflect the real world of social work and to provide an incisive and strong analysis of the issues and debates arising from our work, to speak to the interests and concerns of practitioners and service users without compromising academic rigour. I believe that these two editions have achieved these aims abundantly and hope that this will encourage other writers to respond and to submit articles that address current influences, whether they be theoretical, conceptual or practice based. Through this we can be a genuine support for good academic debate and also the development of good practice, while sharing views and perspectives from a more global perspective.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and will be encouraged to contact either the guest editors or myself, should you wish to contribute to the journal or comment on the papers included here.

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