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Welcome to the third edition of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Research and Practice. We do hope that you find the content both interesting and challenging. Interest in the Journal is growing and we are delighted with the standard of articles submitted and we hope that you would agree that the breadth and depth of discussion raised in these articles is adding to the research and practice debates of both mental health and learning disabilities locally and nationally.

The foreword is provided by Sue Bernhauser, Dean of Human and Health Sciences at the University of Huddersfield, herself a learning disability nurse with a long standing interest in the health care field. The issues raised by her will we hope add further to the current debates in the fields of Mental health and Learning disability.

We would like to encourage authors from a variety of sources to submit articles on topics considered important to both services users, carers, practitioners, services planners and researchers.

This edition of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Research and Practice continues this aim with articles covering a range of topics identified by both service users and practitioners. Also included is an interesting ‘Research’ section providing an opportunity for different perspectives and new challenges to be published. The ‘Points of view’ section continues to provide a forum for important discussion about topical and contemporary issues arising in the mental health and learning disability arenas. We would hope that interested authors would continue to add to these debates in future issues.

Once again, the Editors thank you for your continued interest in this Journal and hope that you will support us in our aim to provide a forum for the presentation of research developments and the promotion of good practice in the mental health and learning disability fields.