

Editorial

Sadly, this is the last edition of the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Research and Practice journal to be published in its current form. The organisations that have provided funding for the journal since its inception in 2004 are no longer able to do so and it is therefore not possible to continue publication.

The journal's philosophy has always been clear:

“To disseminate good quality, practice based, research and development in the fields of mental health and learning disability.”

It has particularly sought to:

- Support novice and first time authors;
- Provide good constructive feedback to authors;
- Include the service user and carer perspective wherever possible;
- Respect and value diversity;
- Encourage articles that increase the knowledge base and support the transfer of knowledge between policy, research and practice.

We may not always have been successful but, as an editorial board, we believe we have remained true to our objectives of inclusivity and accessibility. However, the need to prioritise the Research Assessment Exercise in academic institutions and changes to NHS research funding mean that organisations are now more firmly focused on achieving publication in high impact journals and investing in bids for research funding.

Despite this, we believe that the journal has played an important role in encouraging researchers, including service users and carers, to publish their work. In its seven year history, the journal has been published fifteen times (including the current edition). Four editions were special editions on the topics of: psychological therapies, learning disabilities, new ways of working, and service user and carer involvement in research. Authors ranged from international researchers to a small number of service users and carers.

The editorial board would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the life and success of the journal including board members, authors, peer reviewers, and, most of all, our readers. A particular note of thanks should go to the journal administrator, Alison Holmes, who has been with the journal throughout its development. The editorial board would also like to acknowledge and thank Virginia Minogue who has provided the main leadership and coordination throughout the life of the journal.