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Editorial

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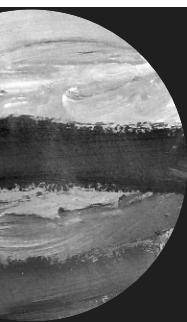
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Editorial

This new peer reviewed journal has been introduced to disseminate examples of research, evaluation and service developments in mental health and learning disabilities. The emphasis is on practice based research and developments, with contributions from a range of practitioners, service users and carers and a range of service areas. We are also keen to consider reflective articles describing experiences and views of service users and carers. The first issue reflects this range, including articles related to older people, learning disabilities, psychological therapies and mental health problems in the community and a personal perspective from a carer.

The journal has been developed jointly by the South West Yorkshire Mental Health NHS Trust and the University of Huddersfield as part of a strategy to increase the dissemination of quality research and service developments, to improve research capacity in the area and promote the links between research, education and practice. It also supports the NHS Research and Development, priorities and needs funded, programmes, in particular those linked to the modernisation of mental health and learning disabilities services. The two organisations collaborate with local, national and international partners and this is reflected in some of the papers in the first issue. Over time we hope the journal will increasingly include contributions from further afield.

The journal is intended to be accessible to a wide audience including mental health practitioners, social care practitioners, researchers, educators, users of mental health services, carers and voluntary sector workers.