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## Editorial

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## Editorial

Dr. Fiona McSweeney and Dr. Dave Williams

It is with great pleasure that we welcome readers to the first issue of the Journal of Social Care (JSOC). The idea for this journal was inspired by reading the small scale research conducted by social care practitioners as part of their undergraduate degree programme. This initial idea developed into creating a platform for social care workers (not just students) to share the insights and research they are completing in their everyday practice. The aim of JSOC is therefore to provide a forum where both practitioners and students of social care and related areas can share their work with a wider community. The journal also aims to make the process of researching and publishing more accessible to new researchers as well as highlight examples of good research and practice relevant to the social care field.

This first issue of JSOC is a general edition containing a range of papers relevant to the broad field of social care work. The first paper authored by Ian McNamara focuses on *The impact of inter-generational projects on the younger person's view of older people*. Using a focus group with six young people the study explores their preconceptions and changes in views towards older people following their participation in two intergenerational projects at a nursing home in the West of Ireland. Aoife Greene in her paper, *The role of self-awareness and reflection in social care practice*, examines the understanding of self-awareness and use of reflection among seven social care workers. Marie Holton conducted research with young people about what encouraged them to remain engaged with a youth work service. In *Researching effective programmes and ways of engaging young people in a youth work setting*, she presents her findings arguing that multiple factors influence the retention of young people in a youth service. In *Non-resident fathers: A literature review of factors influencing their world*, Dave Whyte discusses some issues facing fathers remaining in contact with their children when not resident with them.

The final three short articles are the output from two workshops on introduction to research in social care. These workshops were designed and conducted with the aim of removing the mystery of conducting research. The first group explored the views of social care workers on their role in supporting the parents of people with an intellectual disability. The second article focuses on family support workers experiences of what constitutes an effective working relationship with families. The final paper reports on social care workers' perspectives on the importance of promoting resilience in young people transitioning from care to independent living.

We would like to thank the members of the editorial board for their contribution through reviewing and providing valuable advice to the authors. We hope you enjoy reading this first issue of JSOC and find the article interesting and thought-provoking.

Fiona and Dave