

Message from the Chair

This is a genuinely penned, with a genuine vintage Bic, message - due to the sad loss of my laptop, stolen (along with a haul of other electronic and ocular goodies; my mobile office) - whilst at conference the other week. However it originated from my usual table seat on a SouthWest Train on the way to Waterloo from Portsmouth.

Having just finished reviewing five ethics applications for our Ethics panel (with interesting titles such as 'The social and economic impact of tourism in Barbados') perhaps Research Governance is a good place to start. The Research Governance Resource Pack is still being re-vamped and will be out there hopefully early in the New Year. This will bring the pack up to date on the progress of the social care ethics committees and links with children's services as well as contain new versions of advice and guidance on setting up and running local research governance systems.

As you can see we have a fab new look newsletter, part of our general image renewal. Of course other organizations might take this as an opportunity for bland statements about New SSRG, modern research and performance, apple pie and motherhood (sincere twiddle of Bic, anxious glance in train window) ... Before the queasiness overwhelms, a reassurance that the new look and style are to generate interest in our developing programme, rather than a 'style over substance' (although this is really for members to judge of course!)

As discussed in the October edition of the SSRG newsletter, this brand new look was developed after a series of consultation exercises with members and delegates that took place at various events earlier in the

year. A proper launch will be made at the Annual Workshop (if HRM is available with the Champers!) when old stocks have been used and all materials have been designed and produced. One key aspect of this will be a re vamped website (thanks to Robert Howells at the Social Care Institute for Excellence and members of the EC who are working on this at the moment).

Another 'be there' Annual Workshop event is planned for April 7, 8, 9, at the Chancellor's Conference Centre in Manchester - further details appear elsewhere in the newsletter. Watch this space (and others!) for concurrent training events that we are thinking of holding.

Two very successful events were held in November which looked at the implications and implementation for adults and children services of the National Indicator Set, heralded in 2006 Local Government White Paper. Finally it is once again time to thinking about the future Executive Committee. Nomination forms will be included with the February edition of the newsletter, for the elections, held at the Annual General Meeting, which takes place at the Annual Workshop each year. However, it is a good idea to think now about whether this is something you would be interested and able to play more of a role in steering SSRG.

Any SSRG member can put themselves forward for any of the



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roles of the EC; we are always keen for new people to come forward to help develop ideas and maintain the ongoing activities. The EC meets six times a year and also is involved in liaison with other organisations and planning events. We also have Standing Committees on Children and Adult services, which are also open to all SSRG members with particular interests.

Please contact me (martin.stevens@kcl.uk) if you are interested in any of these opportunities.

Martin Stevens.