

Editorial: Message from the Chair

Social Care is to be 'Transformed' in order to realise the government's 'vision for development of a personalised approach to the delivery of adult social care' (www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/LocalAuthorityCirculars/DH_081934).

A major consultation exercise is currently being undertaken by the government, which a great chance for SSRG members to contribute to this process: insights gleaned from research, performance management and information analysis will be a valuable addition to this development. You can submit individual response through the Care and Support website www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk/, which asks for contributions on how to:

- Improving care and support
- Paying for care and support
- Delivering care and support

I would encourage all members to submit individual contributions. Also if you have suggestions for a SSRG response to this important consultation, please send them to me: (martin.stevens@kcl.ac.uk).

Other matters, more localised, include the upcoming event on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, on the 24th June in Birmingham. This is a hugely timely event, focusing on a development that will be occupying many members' working, waking (and probably sleeping) lives. This is a chance to hear some guidance about 'how to do it' directly from the Department of Health as well to listen to colleagues from the various agencies that have to

contribute about how this is being approached. Spanning the children's services and adult social care divide and encompassing a wider set of agencies and services, this kind of event is a great example of how SSRG is placed to support members and colleagues from the many arenas of social care and from linked areas of public services.



Martin Stevens and David Allan, on David's retirement from the EC

After another successful Annual Workshop, we start the process of planning for 2009 as we return to the first side of the bridge (although, sadly, there is no more need for the never ending painting of the Forth Bridge: a new 25 year lifespan paint will put a stop to that after 2112. The end of a cherished cliché...for which a moment's silence). This year's event drew very positive response from attendees and four volunteers for the Executive Committees, replacing people who had stood down, which was very gratifying - new thinking and enthusiasm is always of tremendous value for the group, so a huge thank you to the four new members of the EC, who will make a great contribution to taking SSRG forward over the next few years, along with existing members.

*Martin Stevens
June 2008*