

## Editorial

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Welcome to the April 2017 (Vol 16, No 1) issue of SJRCC. It is exactly 15 years since our first issue in 2002. This is an important milestone for us to celebrate. In doing so I want to pay special tribute to the founding editor, Professor Andy Kendrick and the Journal's original publisher, the Scottish Institute of Residential Child Care (now CELCIS), for having the foresight to launch a journal specifically aimed at the residential child care community. The Journal's home is in Scotland but it has always had a more global outlook.

In that first issue, Andy set out the aim of the Journal – to 'provide a forum to debate topics such as these [regulation of care, standards and codes of practice for workers and specialist qualifications for a skilled workforce], as well as developments in practice, policy, research and training at every level of residential child care.' That remains the aim of SJRCC today. Andy also expressed the hope 'that the Journal will help in breaking down the barriers between practice and research.' This remains a core value influencing our editorial approach. Thus, we have quite deliberately retained our policy of publishing original research as well as accounts of practice innovation and commentaries on contemporary issues. At the same time, we have sought to improve the quality and reach of the Journal. For example, we introduced double-blind peer-review for original research articles and moved from hard copy to a free-to-access web-based format, with accompanying promotion on social media. As a regular reader, or having just found us, we invite you to get in touch and say what you think of SJRCC. Also, do please consider offering us a paper for review or a shorter commentary, or encourage colleagues to submit to us.

There are some interesting current developments relating to child and youth care in Scotland that will be of interest to our readers worldwide. Following a commitment made by the First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, influenced by personal meetings she had with 'care experienced' young people, the Scottish Government recently announced an independent review of the care system in Scotland. [Fiona Duncan](#), chief executive of Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, began work in February 2017 as chair of the review. Readers can become involved or keep up to date with progress via a dedicated [Care Review](#) website or by tweeting @fionacarereview #carereview.

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Meanwhile CELCIS will launch, on 15 May 2017, a new MOOC (Massive Open Online Learning Course) centred on implementing the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children. The course which is free to access was developed by CELCIS and the University of Strathclyde (the same team which produced the award-winning [Caring for Vulnerable Children](#) course) and is offered through the [FutureLearn](#) social learning platform.

Turning to the current issue, we publish the usual varied collection of articles and book reviews. We lead with a peer-reviewed paper by Arvid Lone and Erik Paulsen, based on semi-structured interviews with youth living in two therapeutic 'collectives' in Norway. Lone and Paulsen's research reveals the strong emotions of fear and uncertainty directed towards a forthcoming move to institutional care, towards the treatment, and towards new peers. The researchers highlight the importance of early contact between staff and young people prior to admission to a collective aimed at establishing positive relationships.

We also publish the transcripts of two high-profile lectures, now firmly established in the calendar of events in child-care circles in Scotland. One is the 14th Kilbrandon Lecture at the University of Strathclyde, given in November 2016 by the highly respected economist and academic Professor Guy Standing of the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. Professor Standing's lecture advocated a basic income as a right, with a particular slant on the implications for children growing up in low-income families and, in contrast, the advantages, to individual and communities, of a guaranteed income. Standing's lecture was followed by instant commentaries delivered by two young students, Kieran O'Neill and Gary Paterson, and we publish their contributions in full. The second transcript is of the third annual Care Leavers' Lecture promoted by the children's campaigning and advocacy charity, Who Cares? Scotland, given during Care Leavers' Week in October 2016 at Glasgow Kelvin College by Jimmy Paul. In the lecture, Mr Paul told the story of his life and explained how he had come to a realisation of the importance of owning his care identity.

The issue also includes two practice-focused articles, both on the theme of trauma. Dan Johnson, a forensic psychologist at Kibble Care and Education Centre in Paisley, Scotland explains how trauma informed principles can be translated into practice in residential care, based on findings from his experience during a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Travel Fellowship. Howard Bath, a clinical psychologist and former children's commissioner for Northern Territory, Australia, has contributed a reflection titled 'the Trouble with Trauma', in which he urges caution in the enthusiasm with which trauma theory has been adopted in service delivery.

We end this issue with two books reviews. Professor Kate Wall reviews *Upstart: The case for raising the school leaving starting age* and providing what the under-sevens really need by Sue Palmer (2016) and Erica Barr reviews

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Managing Difficult Behaviour: How to Improve Relationships by Clare Pallet and colleagues (2015).

Finally, I wish to record my thanks to my fellow-editor, Dr Laura Steckley, who is stepping down from the roles of joint editor and book review editor. Laura has been a strong supporter of SJRCC from the outset and has been a tower of strength both in advocating widely for the Journal and in doing the detailed work needed to keep publication on track. I have appreciated her wise counsel, and I will miss her encouragement, creative suggestions and keen eye for detail. But I am relieved that Laura has agreed to remain a member of the editorial board.

Happy reading! The next, general, issue of SJRCC will be online in September, and the third issue of 2017 is a special issue on history and child-care, due out in December.

Graham Connelly

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