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Editorial

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Editorial

Fiona McSweeney

Welcome to the second issue of the Journal of Social Care and thank you to the authors and reviewers who made this issue possible. This issue contains articles reporting on primary research as well as reflections on the practice of social care from three staff members in Smyly Trust Services.

The first article, authored by Lhara Mullins of National University of Ireland, Galway, comes from research she conducted for her Ph.D. Lhara's discusses the experiences and views of older people on their experiences of receiving home care services in her paper. She recommends, based on her research, that consistency of carers is important for older people as it facilitates the building of a relationship resulting in better quality social contact and greater satisfaction with the service provided. The second article by Elizabeth Molloy reports on her small scale research, conducted when she was a student in the Technological University Dublin, City Campus, about emotional labour and burnout among social care workers in domestic violence refuges. Her research found that listening to the stories of the women who have experienced domestic violence is emotionally demanding for staff members. However this does not necessarily contribute to professional burnout particularly when protective strategies are used by social care workers and support is provided by the organisation and colleagues. In the third article Leigh-Ann Sweeney, Jane Sixsmith and Michal Molcho report on their research that explored the experiences of women working in the sex industry in Ireland. In particular safety health and wellbeing and the women's use of health and social care services are discussed. In the fourth article, Niall Ivory, presents his research on social care workers views and experiences of supporting young people who are deaf with mental health challenges. From the findings of his small scale research he makes recommendations for staff and organisations working with young people who are deaf to minimise mental health difficulties occurring.

The final three articles have the common theme of reflection on social care practice. In the first of these Des Mooney provides a thought provoking discussion on gratitude and how it is felt and practised in a residential care setting. Combining his experience as a social care worker in a residential service for children and relevant literature Des raises important issues about the relationship between gratitude and envy and the backgrounds of young people in residential care. Following this Helen Buggle poses and discusses the question about what attracted her to social care work and has kept her working in the sector for

twenty-seven years. The final piece in this issue, written by Tony Moore, provides an historical account of Smyly Trust Services. This article not only gives a valuable overview of the past but encourages readers to think about the current social conditions in Ireland.

We hope that you not only enjoy and learn from these papers but are inspired to submit your own!