Welcome to the first Issue of the 2015 Volume of the *Journal of Health and Social Care Improvement*. This is both an exciting and challenging time for us in the history of the journal as we move into our new roles as Co-Editors. The journal aims to encourage experienced and novice researchers to publish material that is engaged in bringing about improvements in health and social care policy, practice and education. It is our job, therefore, to ensure the articles we publish have a strong empirical or theoretical foundation and a compelling analytical justification. Under our editorship, we will ensure the highest quality standards are maintained via a strict peer review process, and publish only those manuscripts that offer evidence-based and critiqued reports of aspects of the health and social care landscape that truly purport to improve services.

Whilst maintaining standards our aim is to encourage and support authors from submission to publication. Our commitment to you is that our feedback will be constructive; where necessary we will offer suggestions for improvements. We aim to provide prompt review and feedback. Importantly, particularly for novice authors, it is our vision that we publish for the foreseeable future free of charge. We are pleased to introduce this issue’s articles:

With the growing number of patients over the age of 75 years, Weatherburn, Reid and Bruce investigated the impact on GP workload. They report an increase in demand on primary care and social work in caring for older people, although surprisingly those in the most deprived quintile access services less than those in the more affluent quintile. The study reveals that primary care and social work staff perceive they are working at maximum capacity; the expected and inevitable increase in the number of elderly will lead to significant strain on these services. Weatherburn *et al* argue that currently services are resource led not need led with an emphasis on crisis management rather than preventive interventions. They suggest a redesign of service structure and funding that would lead to greater service integration and further research to understand the underlying reasons for the disparity in access to services by those in the most deprived quintile.

Eshareturi, Morgan and Lyle report on a critical analysis of current UK policy on honour based violence (HBV). Honour based violence is acted out by family or wider community towards a person in response to actual or perceived breach of acceptable code of conduct. Despite this, current policy addresses HBV in the same way as domestic violence. The authors argue that this approach ignores wider cultural values that underpin the root causes of HBV. They suggest a series root cause interventions with young people and communities whilst also arguing that for policy to be effective it should locate HBV within the discourse of human rights rather than criminality as it currently is.

Bellingham-Young suggests an integrated model of key concepts in public health suggesting that the model serves as a framework for public health teaching and practice.

We are currently seeking additional Editorial Board members who would like to act as peer-reviewers in the coming year. If you would like to apply please download and complete the application form that can be found on the Current Issues page, and submit to FEHWjhsci@wlv.ac.uk