Editorial

In today’s society, health and social care practice is constantly challenged to address situations which require us to manage new advances, or incorporate diverse and sometimes seemingly competing factors. This calls for us as service providers, researchers and tutors to reflect on a variety of opinions, viewpoints or perspectives in order to appraise complex situations and improve our understanding of issues. Research and reflection on the implications of the findings of research is a key factor in this process. Asking questions, seeking and answers and considering the possibilities available for improving services, learning or even future investigations on the basis of our findings is the process by understanding may be achieved.

Understanding and ‘Improvement’ lies at the heart of this new online journal. The Journal of Health and Social Care Improvement seeks to support and contribute to advancement and improvement of health and social care at the level of the individual, team or health and social care subject. This new journal, the first of its kind for the University of Wolverhampton, offers staff, practice partners and students a unique opportunity to engage with theories, methodological approaches and research perspectives underpinning health and social care improvement.

I am delighted to introduce this first issue of the journal. It features three articles focussing on three different aspects of health care delivery and social care concerns. The authors in this issue highlight the challenges and opportunities in various aspects of research and care practice. Their accounts are enlightening and thought provoking. This issue also features a reflective view of a personal research journey by Professor Linda Lang, Dean of the School of Health. This will be a regular feature in which individuals with varied experiences of research will provide insight into their perspectives which we hope will inspire and inform others. I would like to extend my thanks to all those who have contributed to this first edition. I hope the journal will grow to provide the evidence base and critical reflection required to help drive changes and improvements in health and social care education, research and practice. You are invited to read their experiences and engage with the debates.