

The Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care – 20 years and counting

Featuring

Dr Graham Connelly, Editor-in-chief

Emeritus Professor Andrew Kendrick, Editor emeritus

Dr Laura Steckley, Past editor

Dr Leanne McIver, Book Review editor

Dan Johnson, Editorial Board member

Joseph Gibb, Editorial Board member

Sarah Deeley, Editor

Craig McCreadie, Improving care experiences consultant, CELCIS

Gemma Watson, Improving care experiences consultant, CELCIS

[Graham Connelly](#)

I'm absolutely passionate about this Journal. The whole idea of the Journal - I think the origin of it - was Andy Kendrick, the first editor's idea, and it came out of the Skinner report developments. It's really about the professionalization of the Child and Youth Care, workforce in Scotland. And Andy had the idea that we should have a journal which would be dedicated to residential or group care in Scotland, and I think initially, the idea was that we would encourage authors within the Scotland, but very quickly we realized that it was important to have an international outlook.

So, I think the idea of a journal was both about celebrating good practice, and bringing to the attention of Child and Youth Care workers in Scotland, good practice, innovative practice, research ideas from within the country, but also encouraging authors from outside the country. So we could have an outlook and we would celebrate the profession within Scotland, but also develop ideas for articles that would come from other countries. So that we would have a sense of what was happening internationally in Child and Youth Care.

Andrew Kendrick

My name is Andy Kendrick. I was the first Professor of Residential Child Care when the Scottish Institute of Residential Child Care was set up in around about 2000, and I think in my role as professor, I wanted to ensure that we used all the avenues open to communicate with residential child co-workers, but also with wider people in the field, and I felt that a journal would be an important way to do this.

It was difficult, in a sense, to set up. We went for a print journal back then, but it felt very much like flying by the seat of your pants at the start, in terms of getting contributions in, we were clear that we wanted to get a wide range of people contributing to the Journal so residential workers or the professionals care experience young people where possible as well as contributions which were which were setting out the latest research and practice innovations going on at that time.

Laura Steckley

So Andy Kendrick approached me and asked me if I'd be the book review editor like a lot of years ago, maybe 2005 or 6. And I love books. So that seemed like a great thing to do, and I really did enjoy doing that. It's a hard job because people want to do it. But the time it takes to really read the book and then write the review. For some people it ends up being more than they bargained for. So chasing those up was a part of my early experiences, and I sat on the editorial board, and that was always a really enjoyable kind of creative group of people. And then, when Andy kind of had to step away from the editorial role because of other demands on this time - I don't think I've ever told anybody this - I approached both Andy and Graham, kind of asking them like, would it be OK if I kind of stepped into that role or helped out, because they didn't want to be presumptuous, and I didn't know if they would be like "No, please, no!" And they were both lovely, and they were both like "Oh, yes, please!" And so that that was, I almost didn't do it, and I wasn't sure I had the time for it, because it is a very time consuming thing, but I also wasn't sure that that would be welcome. But then I could have put them on the spot to have to figure out what to say, because I've had the kind of relationships with them that they wouldn't want to say something to hurt my feelings. But fortunately that worked out well. I don't remember for how long - in some respects it feels like a really long time, because it is a lot of work, and in other respects that felt like just a flash, you know, in a timeline. And so I then edited with Graham for a few years and have continued to sit on the editorial board since then. So yeah, that's the nutshell of my relationship with the Journal.

Leanne McIver

I'm Leanne McIver and I'm the book review editor for the journal and I was invited probably four years ago to take on that role, and I was really interested in it because I'm somebody who has always loved books, and in the past I did English at University alongside the psychology that I did.

And so it felt like a really nice opportunity to, alongside the research, which is the kind of substantive part of my work, to start getting involved in helping people write book reviews and identify books to be reviewed. And trying to make

sure that every issue of the Journal has at least a couple of book reviews in that are going to be of interest to the Journal's readership.

Dan Johnson

My name is Dan Johnson. I'm a forensic psychologist. I've also clinical director, at Kibble. My connection with the journal is I'm currently on the editorial board. We have also submitted a few papers, and obviously been reading it for years.

Joseph Gibb

Yeah. My name is Joe. I worked in residential childcare for nineteen years, starting off as a sessional worker. I worked in different places, including, you know, the different provisions and then eventually ended up as a manager in a local authority, at the very end, and I then moved into lecturing, so I am now a lecturer in Further Education at Glasgow Clyde College. In terms of my connection with the Journal, from the very beginnings of my time working in residential I have always been aware of the Journal, and it really took prominence when I took up the HNC in Residential Care, and that was through Langside College at the time in SIRCC, and a lot of the materials that were pretty much presented to us in terms of HNC students were connected to the Journal, so that was really quite a prominent link. And in addition to that, I eventually did the Masters in Residential Care and the Journal was a big part of the teaching on the Masters, alongside the core reader at that time which was a book called Rethinking Residential Child Care by Mark Smith. so I've had a really strong connection with the Journal from the beginning of my time working in residential.

Sarah Deeley

Talking about the editorial board. You are the editor, Graham. Can you tell us a bit about your time as editor?

Graham Connelly

Well, I should start by acknowledging that I'm part of an editorial team. I'm chairing an editorial team of which you are very important part yourself Sarah.

Well, I became the editor in 2012, and at that time it was a hard copy journal. It was paid for by subscription, institutional subscriptions, mainly university libraries, and individual subscriptions.

That was a very resource intensive process. You can imagine getting it printed, and so on, and getting it out to people, and it already seemed in 2012 that that was old fashioned.

And so I suppose if I can lay any claim to innovation here, it was with a great deal of help to get this Journal online, and of course, for our readers who are having a look, They'll wonder why we didn't publish in 2012, and that was simply because we used that year to do all the back office work in getting this Journal online, which was clearly the way people were beginning to read journals anyway. And also It was certainly important to me that there should be no barriers to access, and having to have a subscription, and therefore to know about it, and so on, was clearly a barrier, and removing that barrier, I think, I'm pretty sure that was the tipping point, because, in truth, we had very few

individual subscribers, we had quite a lot of institutional subscribers all the University libraries, in Scotland, and one or two elsewhere. But, we didn't have a large number of individual subscribers, so the aim was to make it more widely available - free to download with no barriers. I think we achieved that.

Sarah Deeley

As a member of the editorial board. Can you tell us, what's that like, what's required of you?

Dan Johnson

I suppose there's two main roles. One is to shape how the Journal is evolving, in what direction we're going in. What we want the Journal to be, but also the best bit is you get to read people's papers and learn from them, and hopefully try and improve them if you can.

Joseph Gibb

Well, when I got the opportunity to sit on the Editorial Board, It was a real privilege I have to say, and you know that whole notion of being able to scrutinize articles that's going to be presented into the Journal, is something I don't take lightly. So I was delighted to get that opportunity, and also I take it very seriously in terms of that audit process, quality assurance process, to make sure that the quality is good enough for people to read and use in practice as well. It's got to be accessible for me as well, so that people at all levels in their journey can read the articles and make use of them, so that that's a key part it for me.

Sarah Deeley

So as the Book Review editor, can you tell us about some of the favourite books that you've read over your time.

Leanne McIver

To be honest, I mainly read the reviews rather than the books themselves . There's actually very few of the books that have been reviewed that I have personally read, although one of the great things about the role is that people keep flagging books, I think. Oh, I want to read that now, even if it's something I've never heard of, or you know something not being a practitioner, quite a lot of them are practitioner focused. But sometimes I think Oh, yeah, I would quite like to read that. So I've got this kind of a real stack of books waiting to be read, but also my kind of imaginary stack of books; for when I come back to looking at ones that people would have read for the Journal, but it's one of the best things about the role, that you just get to hear what other people are reading and what they thought of it, and especially when we hear from people that are using these books in their professional life's, I think, for me to get a good understanding of what's out there, and how people are actually really reading stuff, and actually put it into practice, and what their own thoughts and reflections are. I just find that fascinating and really really good to be able to share that with the Journal readership.

Joseph Gibb

I think the significance of the Journal is about identity. It's a Journal that is specifically about Residential Child Care. All the articles are written through that lens, in addition to that, there's not just a British audience, or a Scottish audience. There's an international audience readership attached to the Journal, and in addition to that, the contributors are also international. So you've got a lot of people from all different countries, South Africa, North America, UK, Ireland. You name it, you know there's somebody's contributed to that Journal from a particular country, and they've usually got something unique to say, about this complex field that we work in.

Graham Connelly

Well, we've never made claims to be a high status research journal, although we've had high quality research articles in the Journal, we're not part of a publishing house we're published by CELCIS as part of its Scottish Institute of Residential Child Care offer to the profession.

We're explicitly free to download and that's been an important part of the values of the Journal, so that there are no barriers to access the Journal for professionals working in the sector, or indeed for young people, or anyone who wants to access the articles that that we have to offer.

So I think it sits rather curiously. It's unusual, I think. And you've got to give credit to CELCIS, our parent organization for putting in the resource to get this online and make it free to download.

Where does it sit internationally and in terms of status of the Journal. Well, that's for others to judge, I think, but we're proud of it, and going by the downloads that we have, it clearly serves a purpose.

Obviously most downloads are in the United Kingdom and other English-speaking countries. But every year we're surprised when we see where we're actually being read, and of course, we've tried very hard to have our advocates in different countries by having an international editorial board, so that we have people who can be champions of the journal in their own countries.

Dan Johnson

I think it's got a pretty unique place, and this is the real strength, I think. I can't think of any other journal like it. But it's what really, really niche, really specific, but somehow it's got this really full breath in in the same way. So yes, it's all about residential care. It's all about young people, it's international, and it's everything within residential care it can range from attachment, to systems, to theory, to practitioner reflections. So you know it's... There's nothing quite like it.

Andrew Kendrick

I think it's huge. Having set it up, and remembering the work that was needed, around that time in terms of setting it up. I think the Journal has gone from strength to strength. I think it was a huge, a huge step for it to go online, simply because that increases the accessibility of the Journal. And the fact that you can go back - just at the start I went back to look at what was in the very first

Journal issue. And I was thinking yeah, that that that's still good. It's still it's still relevant in terms of, in terms of the residential sector today. And I think the other important aspect has been that we set out for it to have a wide range of people contributing to the journal, and I think that's happened over the years. Residential staff and professional staff are regular contributors, which is great showing, flagging up issues, but also putting forward innovative solutions in terms of the residential sector. Care experience young people contributed in a in a whole range of different ways. And I think one mark of the success of the Journal is now the range of international contributions we get, because when, although it's - and I know I've had this debate with, with Graham, it's still the Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care, which marks in a sense, I think, this is where it started. This is where it was created with a very specific purpose to speak to the residential sector in Scotland. Nevertheless, it now has an international reputation, and gets contributions from international academics and professionals, but also is speaking to the world.

Laura Steckley

I want to say how proud I am of the Journal and, like I said, I was only editor for a little flash of the time, but anytime I'm like reading - and it gets cited a lot for a little mom and pop journal - like I sit on the editorial board for a Taylor and Francis Journal, which is like corporate level, academic publication, and it's a totally different ball game. That's a labour of love, too, but in a very different way. This really takes a lot more blood, sweat, and tears to make this happen. It is hosted by CELCIS, but, I recognize what you and Graham are doing, and so whenever I see articles cited and they're cited quite regularly in the stuff that I'm reading for my teaching or for the research I'm doing, or other scholarship work, I always just have this big flurry of pride about that. And I do see that often, I do see students responding to articles that we encourage them to read, or I even require some reading for sessions. And how they respond to articles from the journal as well.

Craig McCreadie

Hi there, I'm Craig McCreadie. I am a consultant with the Improving Care Experiences hub.

Gemma Watson

And I'm Gemma Watson, and I'm also a consultant within the Improving Care Experiences hub at CELCIS.

Craig McCreadie

I think, to try to characterize what my connection is to the Journal very much started at the beginning of this year 2022, and when our Comms colleagues wanted to kind of celebrate the fact that the Journal was moving into it's twentieth year, and they wanted to be able to kind of elevate and celebrate and promote content from over the twenty years, and connect some of the article content to moments across the year. So, could there be articles to promote in relation to the Foster Care Fortnight, or National Care Experience Week, et cetera. And so Gemma and I were given the opportunity to start to look for content against these moments, and as we, as I started to get into the process,

I actually wondered if this might be a moment that would allow us to do a bit of a broader, deeper dive, and to try to understand what all of the rich content was that sat within the archive. And so I just started at the beginning in 2002, and I read the first article when I tried to figure out what theme I was primarily talking about, and then I read the next one, and I read the next one, and I read the next one, and I started to try to figure out could we start to group the articles together under the themes as the themes emerged through the exploration and after about a week of so I spoke to Gemma about what I was doing, and how I'd been spending some of my time with it over the past week, and she rightly pointed out the enormous mistake I had made because it was going to take me forever. But Gemma, being Gemma, wanted to be part of the solution, and offered to do it with me. So I absolutely said yes, and took her up on that. So we agreed at that point I would continue where I was, having started in 2002, and the Gemma would start looking at the second ten years and start reading articles from 2012.

Gemma Watson

So, Craig and I, as Craig said, took ten years each and worked through them and at points. I suppose we became slightly snow blind, we called it when we were reading the articles, because we had read so many articles in such a short space of time that there were challenges at points in theming them in some articles. It wasn't obvious right away what the theme was. So we allowed some of the articles just to sit and percolate for a few days. Until Craig and I could come together and read them together and think about what the theme might be, and sometimes Craig would read my article and say, Gemma, of course, that's staffing issues or practice, because reading it, being a bit further away from it. It's more obvious.

Also we had concerns at some points that there were too many things. As we were adding articles, the themes were growing over time, and we wondered if we should try and distil them down or just let them sit. And one of the examples is participation versus young people's perspectives. So some of the articles spoke directly to participation where some spoke about young peoples', perspectives, and their own care, journey or their own care records. So we allowed them to set a separate themes. And also ACE's and trauma was another one that we thought do we distil this into one theme. But when we revisited that, we actually came to realize that when we when we were talking about aces in the articles it was talking explicitly about young people's trauma, children and young peoples' trauma and when we were looking at the trauma theme, that also included the wellbeing and the vicarious trauma of staff.

Sarah Deeley

So it's a journal's twentieth birthday. Looking back, is there any key moments over the past twenty years that you think of influenced the shape for the direction of the journal?

Laura Steckley

Irene Stevens. I remember her leadership, and so I must have been sitting on the board when she was. And I think she was the first person to start to think about yes, it's possible to go for Peer Review. I don't remember when Peer Review happened, if it happened under her leadership, or she just helped us get to a place where we could see that being possible. And it being that Peer Review element, I think, was a big changing thing. It going completely online gave us more breathing room for more articles and more types of articles. I think that was important. I do like having something tangible in my hands when I'm reading. But I think the benefits of the online outweigh the loss of that. I think the love issue was a big deal. I think, already in the field there was people talking about the place of love, and that there may be, and there is in certain cases a place for love and professional practice. And I say in certain cases, because at that time it was a bit taboo, and it felt vulnerable like putting your head above that parapet. But that, and there had even been some articles in the SIRCC Journal addressing that. But to have a whole dedicated issue was a big deal. So I guess those are the three things that come to mind for me.

Graham Connelly

Well within Scotland, you would have to point to the Independent Care Review, now universally known as The Promise, because Scottish Government promised to current young people and care experienced young people and adults that there would be, that they had listened, and they would make improvements, and so on. And virtually all the articles now that emanate from Scotland refer to the promise that's their context.

I suppose internationally, of course, we'd have to point to the pandemic which is still influencing the lives of young people and their families around the world.

Of course we had a series of special articles in 2020 and, you know, one wonders just the ongoing influence of that pandemic, and I'd love to see more articles, particularly from the African countries and the Indian subcontinent. We published a number, but I'd like to see more. I'd like to know, for example, the impact on young people of the vaccines.

And then the war in Ukraine, which is led to family migration on a scale that honestly, we thought we'd left behind after the Second World War. I imagine we will have articles based on those experiences in the future, in the Journal.

Joseph Gibb

One of the first articles that was published in the Journal is one that I always remember, and that was by Lesley Archer. It was called "What works in Residential Care". It was really, I suppose, her summary of a number of pieces of literature, brought together in some of her own work to make sense of what components you need to provide good care. And that article for me is one that I still go to, to this day, and one that I recommend to people to go read, because it really makes you see, you know how challenging the role can be how some of the factors that influence our role are sometimes not within our control, and what you need to do to try and minimize trauma in the residential setting. So I think that was one for me.

And the other one that I remember is an article by Chris Walter, who was a manager at Camphill Communities at that point in time and that was the story of Matthew and it was looking at a case study, a real life study, on a particular young person that Chris had looked after and using an ecological perspective to analyse what was going on for Matthew, and that again, for me that was really interesting at the time because I was doing a masters in residential care , one of the assignments was on assessment and it really brought to life that whole notion of ecological assessment and how it fits in with for example the national practice model in Scotland. And again that's another article that I still go back to and re-read from time to time.

And then finally another article that I really remember, and is quite significant to myself is an article that I've written alongside Debbie Nolan, and that was about reducing police involvement for children who are in care. And I contributed to that piece of work from a guest perspective, in terms of writing that from a practitioner point of view. And for me again, that was really a privilege in the first instance, but also quite an important article, because it could then touched or aligned itself with the whole aspect of physical restraint and restraint reduction and considering that through a broader lens, So that's the kind of one for me. It's quite a few. I can talk about it all day to be honest with you, but they're the ones that really stick out for me.

Craig McCreadie

The level of stuff that we noticed was just vast and Gemma, and I reflected the other day that we really wish we recorded our conversations because we had hours and hours of conversations about this as we went through it, and were kind of supporting each other with it. And so some of the things that come to mind, I guess more readily are the fact that there are a greater number of issues and articles later on than there were earlier, so that left Gemma with more work to do than I did because I did the first ten years. And also, when we go to the end, we can see how many there were under each grouping. Of the top three, number one was articles that related to staffing issues which included practice recruitment and development. It was number one by quite, some way. Then sitting at number two on the list, was articles that related to international perspectives. So care settings in other countries around the world. And number three was articles related to transitions and leaving care and which, given the kind of context and some of the conversation that's going on nationally just now, continues to be really interesting.

So at the other end of the scale some of the things that we noticed that we have a process of identifying every article with a primary, secondary, and where relevant, tertiary theme. One of the things that we noticed was that GIRFEC, for example, is mentioned twice as a as a secondary theme. But never as a primary one, and another similar one is that we noticed that social work training is identified once as a secondary theme, and all that in all of that writing it just appears once.

Gemma Watson

And I suppose, I had the most recent articles from 2012 and something that I noticed was that we didn't start speaking about love in the sector explicitly until 2016, around the same time the Independent Care Review was announced. However, we were talking about love before that in the Journal articles we just didn't call it love. We were framing it as something different, but talking about love. And the other really interesting thing that I picked up was around the pandemic that a lot of the articles that are themed during 2020, 2021, spoke about how staff are changing practice to ensure that children and young people were being cared for in residential care around the pandemic, and how that the changes were made, and it's a record that we'll have for ever more, and I think it's really lovely that we've got a snapshot in time in the Journal during that time that reflects how practice changed.

Andrew Kendrick

I think there have been a number of things. I think you've got to remember that back in two 2002, when we put out the first issue. It was coming on the back of the 1990s. There'd been the Skinner Review of Residential Childhood. There'd been the Kent Children's Safeguard Reviews. There were these concerns about standards in residential childhood, and more broadly in terms of looked after children, the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care was set up on the back of Kent. My role was set up on the back of the Kent Children's Safeguards Review. There were all these changes coming in the Care Commission, the Scottish Social Services Council, the impact of the requirements for qualifications and registration for residential workers. So there was a huge amount of change, and I think the Journal at that point was important in terms of flagging up this change for Scotland. I think since then there have been a number of issues which have been important. The Independent Care Review, and The Promise, I think just some of the general developments in terms of both residential child care and the wider child care sector have needed to be addressed by the Journal, but that those have been the things going on in in Scotland, but that generally, I think there's been a shift in terms of acknowledging the importance of relationships, acknowledging the importance of love in residential, child care and child care more generally, which impact not just here, but in the residential sectors around the world.

Sarah Deeley

Can you tell us a bit about how the Journal supports new writers and aspiring authors?

Laura Steckley

Sure, that was always something I was really interested in, and I continue to be really interested in the role of writing and helping us to think more clearly, or get in touch with our own knowledge as well as the knowledge of other people through and the relationship of reading and writing. And so I really wanted the Journal to kind of have a dynamic presence in supporting inexperienced writers, especially people who are in direct practice in residential child care. So we did start to do more with that. I think that's a lot of work, and that's hard to do, too, and it's hard for inexperienced writers to take that kind of risk and do that.

The Journal does regularly have pieces that are written by people supported to do that for the first time or the first few times sometimes. And I think that's a really valuable thing that helps the development of individuals in the residential health care sector as well as the sector overall.

Graham Connelly

I think it's true to say that we've grown up as a Journal, we've developed. We've obviously benefited from the experience of other journals. We've developed into a more... I think we've had a formation as a journal to make it more professional. We've developed our reviewing process to make it more robust, but we always encourage new authors, and we've tried hard also to get young people to write, and we've been successful on a number of occasions to get young people to write often along with workers.

And so what we've tried to do is, we try to have a supportive reviewing process, I think, is one aspect, and the other is that we will always have this offer that we will provide a member of our reviewing panel, or our wider editorial group to support new authors.

Sarah Deeley

If somebody is thinking of writing an article for the Journal what advice would you give them?

Dan Johnson

Uh good question. So be really interested and passionate about what you're writing about, that's always a good start. Think about your audience of people actually working in residential care, people who are practitioners, who are trying to make the environment better, so try to have real resonance for them. And don't be shy to share your own sort of reflections within that - your own experience, because that's what practitioners can thrive on sometimes.

Sarah Deeley

So if somebody was interested in reviewing a book for the Journal, what would the process be?

Leanne McIver

The very first thing is to get in touch with us. We accept reviews that are likely to be of interest to our readership. It's very broad. It doesn't have to be an academic text, it can be somebody's autobiography, or a biography of somebody, if you know, perhaps if they're care experienced, and the author's care experience, so that would be of interest to our readership. It doesn't have to just be academic doesn't have to be specifically about residential child care.

And we're very happy to have a chat by email and give people advice - support them as much as they need, with the writing of the review - but we're happy to hear from anybody if anyone has read something that they think. Oh, that would be of interest to the readership of the Journal. Absolutely get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

Sarah Deeley

Looking to the future, where do you see the Journal going next?

Graham Connelly

Well, I think we'd like to reach more countries, so we'll try very hard to expand our reach. I'd love to encourage more young people to write for the Journal. I know that we've had poetry in the Journal and Jim Anglin has been encouraging us to have more poetry, and I'll tell you an interesting thing. Several people have emailed me recently to say how useful they find the book review section, and there was a time when I wondered if anyone ever read the book reviews, but it seems they do. So I'd love for that area to be developed.

Andrew McKendrick

Of course I'm retired now, and I'm less involved in it. I'm very much looking at it from the outside, but I think if it can continue to have this broad range of contributions, speaking to the range of professionals, residential staff, and to care experienced young people themselves, drawing in the most recent research and ensuring that there is a real evidence base and research base for the development of the residential childcare sector and its role in the broader continuum of care services. I think it has, you know, it has created a voice an international voice now, and I think it can continue to do that.

Craig McCreadie

I think part of the narrative of where it might go, leans on where it's come from, and we have seen continual evolution. What we see is this has never stood still. One of the things that Gemma and I reflected on was the language evolved constantly. There was language that appears in the first two or three years' worth of content that isn't used now, and that we've kind of left it there, and we talk about things in a different way, there is a different perspective. So I take a lot of confidence in the fact that that's the back story, and I think it points to really really healthy future direction.

Gemma Watson

And for me, I think we noticed that when we talk about in practice we didn't always talk about practice only in residential child care. So it's a resource that I suppose other sectors and other professions can also dip into.

Joseph Gibb

Well, I think the Journal still needs to remain true to its roots, and we'll still provide that. It's a real kind of, it's a niche area, but there's still quite a broad view in the Journal and I think that still needs to remain in terms of national contexts. Looking at some of the key areas, some of the stuff that might not be easy to look at either, stuff like physical restraint for example, stuff like the challenges of placement, and the challenges of how the sector is used. And asking people who have got something interesting to say, putting a challenge in place to try and get people thinking, I think that's where we still need to be heading and make it something that sits sometimes on the edge, but in a professional way.

Dan Johnson

I think the Journal is in a wonderful position. It's got an international authorship, group of authors, it's got an international audience. It's got folk who are really interested and passionate. I suppose it's just about building that and building on

the subjects, and the articles that we've already written. So there is some really fantastic articles that can really influence and improve practice. Let's just keep going on that, let's develop that. And one thing that I'm really interested in is how technology can help us augment and improve care. Care is behind the rest of the world in some way, residential care, and so I'd love to see articles like that in the Journal, supporting it.

[Leanne McIver](#)

I think it's already got a very important place particularly in the Scottish context, but also increasingly in the international context. And I just think it's, about more attention to the Journal as people start to realize. So there's always a lot of debate about residential childcare in particular, but Scotland itself is going through a huge period of change, you know, with the incorporation of the UNCRC and with the intention to keep The Promise. And I actually think that the Journal has probably got a really important place within that. And I think just going into the future, It is going to be good to see that, being more recognized and understood in the community, even more so than it is now.

[Laura Steckley](#)

So, looking forward, that we continue to produce content that helps individuals, teams, services, and the residential child care sectors across the world. Continue to develop so that we're equal to the task of caring for children and young people, many of whom have had the most adversities, so that they have better life chances and better experiences of care.

[Andrew McKendrick](#)

It's just lovely to see it going on from strength to strength. I think that when I set it up I took a lot of the, I did a lot of the work myself. I think it's much better structured now. It means that a broader range of people are involved in getting the Journal up and running, but it just feels, what felt like my baby at that time has grown now, and it's reached adulthood at this time at reaching twenty years.

[Graham Connelly](#)

I would just like to say, from a personal point of view, what an absolute pleasure it has been to edit this Journal, and well, of course I'm in retirement, and it's just such a wonderful way for me to keep connections with the sector in Scotland, elsewhere in the UK and internationally, so it's just a delight to be involved with the Journal.

©CELCIS