Editorial

How do we make community-oriented integrated care work?

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Welcome to the first 2015 issue of *LJPC*, in which we continue the theme of community-oriented integrated care. In particular, how do we make it work?

Lord Darzi, in his recent *LJPC* interview, explained that it is processes of transformation, rather than structural change that will build integrated care. He called for vision, risk taking and innovation to develop models of continuous improvement, building one stage upon another, and uniting practitioners through a shared approach to patient care.

In this issue, Professor Ferlie offers a commentary on Lord Darzi's vision. He agrees that the vision is desirable, but also identifies four major questions that may obstruct implementation:

1. Can primary care development and investment be protected in a cold financial climate?
2. Does the current marketisation of health care erode integration?
3. Does the health and social care system in London behave like a real system?
4. Is there really a cultural shift towards empowerment and organizational learning?

The UK is in an election year, and strategy for the NHS will be a hot topic. This means that strategy for

integrated care will be a hot topic because it is thought to be one way to contain NHS costs without sacrificing quality. What do you think about Lord Darzi's vision and the four questions Professor Ferlie raises?

Other papers in this issue include:

- an HGV driver with non-alcoholic liver disease – a case study arising from the integrated care pilot in West London (Al-Bakir & Devendra);
- the compelling story of helping your own father to have a 'good death' (Powell);
- Book Review: a career companion to becoming a GP: developing and shaping your career (Papanikitas)

RCGP London and *LJPC* will hold the City Health Conference on 1–2 May 2015. Through workshops, we will continue the discussion about practical ways to make community-oriented integrated care work. Sign up now.

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