



The researchers underline the importance of tailoring psychological support to the individual. This can only be achieved, they assert, by seeing the person first, rather than the condition. This, I think, is wise advice for all of us with our clients, no matter what their presenting issue.

The challenge of remaining client centred can be a difficult one in times when resources are scarce, and political and organisational pressures are great, as is currently the case across the UK. Jacqui Taylor reflects on the challenges currently facing third sector mental health providers in Scotland, including Brexit and a possible second referendum on Scottish independence, as well as the pressures of public sector funding cuts and austerity. While Jacqui highlights the significant impact of these external challenges, she is quick to point out that there are also new opportunities, if we are prepared to think differently, demonstrate flexibility and find new ways of working more efficiently. The lessons that Jacqui draws seem, to me, to be of relevance to third sector organisations across the whole of the UK.

The third sector perspective has been eloquently and thoughtfully represented in this journal by Michael Lilley for the past four years. We are very sorry to announce that Michael has decided to stand down from this role, as he has now retired from the counselling profession. We highly appreciate all the hard work he has put in over his time with us. While we are very sorry to lose him, we wish him all the best in his new role as a Green councillor on the Isle of Wight. We will be looking for someone to take over the third sector column from October, so if you work in a third sector counselling organisation and would like to contribute to this journal on a regular basis, then please do get in touch.



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