

# Improving quality & sharing best practice through 'The Cygnet Journal'

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## Introduction

The Cygnet Journal is a co-produced peer reviewed journal due to be published in December 2021 and we believe it will be the first peer reviewed journal published by a mental health provider in the UK.

## Aim

The aim of the Cygnet Journal is to ensure that Quality improvement(QI) projects, innovative practices, research, audits etc completed by staff and service users within the organisation are shared in order to improve quality so that service users receive the best possible care. The journal would give staff and services an opportunity to publish in the journal and showcase their work. It is expected that the journal would encourage and significantly increase staff involvement in QI projects, innovative practices, research, audits etc, avoid duplication, increase efficiency and improve quality and clinical outcomes across the organisation. The journal is also expected to encourage service user led initiatives and projects and increase co-production within the organisation. In addition to improving quality and raising the academic profile of the organisation, the aim is to also improve recruitment and retention of staff.

## Methods

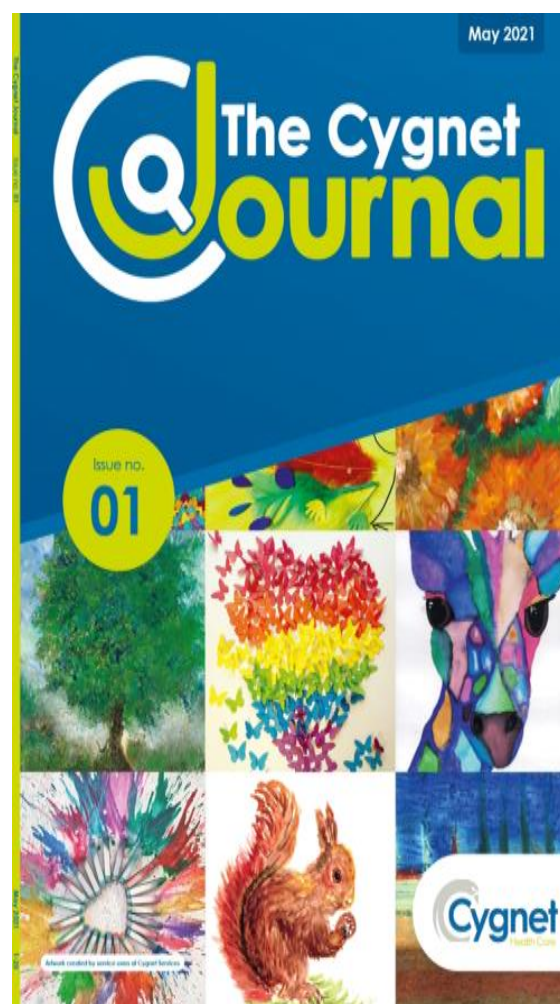
Initial discussions regarding the Cygnet Journal were held towards the end of 2020 and the Cygnet Journal editorial board was established in January 2021. The editorial board has been meeting regularly since then and reviewing progress. Information regarding the journal was published on the organisation's intranet in February 2021. There was also a call for peer reviewers and a deadline for submissions with instructions for authors sent.

## Results

The response to the journal has been very positive. We received a large number of peer reviewer applications from staff and we appointed the peer reviewer team in March 2021. We currently have 14 peer reviewers from various disciplines. The double blind peer review process was also established and a peer reviewer template developed and training resources were provided to peer reviewers. The journal has increased interest in QI, audits, research, service user led projects and innovative practices and we have received a large number of submissions that are going through the anonymised peer review process. Service user artwork is displayed on the front and back cover of the journal and service user led projects will also be published in the journal.

## Conclusions

The Cygnet Journal has had a positive impact on staff and services and has increased the interest in QI, audits, research, service user led projects and innovative practices across the organisation. The Cygnet Journal is expected to be published online and in print in December 2021 and will be published 6 monthly going forwards. About 3000 printed copies of the journal will be distributed to hospitals within and outside the organisation and left in hospital receptions, wards and staff offices and will be distributed to commissioners and carers.



### PEER REVIEW TEMPLATE

Title of the manuscript:

Date received:

Date review submitted:

#### 1. Summary

a) In your own words, summarize the aims, methods and conclusions of the study.

b) Discuss the manuscript's strengths and weaknesses and your overall recommendation.

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Overall recommendation:

(Accept, Reject, Revise and Resubmit)

#### 2. Examples and Evidence

Major issues

(Major issues that must be addressed in order for the manuscript to be accepted. Focus on what is essential for the current study, list them and be as specific as possible)

Minor issues

Mention minor issues that the authors should address to improve the manuscript.

#### 3. Other points (optional)

Add confidential comments for the editors if applicable. This would include any concerns that the editors may need to consider further such as concerns about ethics. The section is not to be used for your overall critique. Please state whether you might be available to review a revised version.