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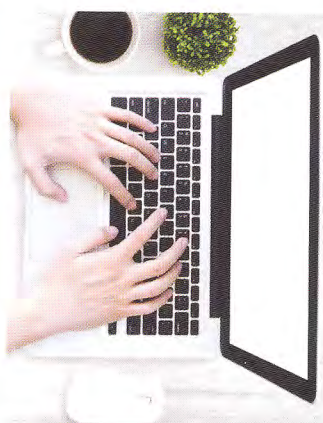
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SHAHID NAQVI



Lives, rights and the power of social work

In the wake of Human Rights Day on 10 December, this edition is a reminder of the importance of putting the person first.

Our features section contains stories from people whose lives have been changed by key events and decisions. They range from mothers talking about having children taken into care to mental health service users underlining how they, not processes, are what matter. We also hear from former looked-after children, people fighting for the rights of loved ones with disabilities and those at the sharp end of Britain's homelessness crisis.

It's a scandal that the number of children who will be living in temporary housing this Christmas is at a ten-year high. So too the rise in children and pensioners experiencing poverty highlighted by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Social workers are part of the solution to this – both in their day-to-day work and in their campaigning for a fairer society.

Finally, you may have noticed a new look to this magazine – we hope you like it.

All that remains is to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas – and the very best in the New Year!

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