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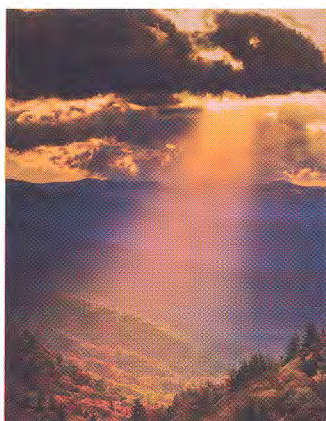


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From the Editor  
**SHAHID NAQVI**



## People not plc's should profit from your work

I suspect most of us know people who work in the business world. I know I do and, despite rumours to the contrary, they are lovely, decent, kind and generous. Not a forked tongue or gnarled horn in sight.

Whether we like it or not we live in a market economy and you can't blame people for wanting to earn a living.

But when the business of profit creeps into a profession like social work we have to stop and think. On page 19, Ray Jones spells out his opposition to this trend, not just in social work but more generally in the public sector. Perhaps ironically, last month a social work finalist cited stock market-listed Capita's sponsorship of its category as the reason for pulling out of England's Social Worker of the Year Awards – an event Jones previously chaired and which awarded him for outstanding contribution to social work.

Whatever your ideological view, it's difficult to avoid big business. Indeed, Capita currently works with three-quarters of the 418 local authorities in the UK.

But if we believe the measure of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members, then we must ensure profit is not put before people. And that is the business of social work.

If you have a view on any of our editorial content or ideas for future articles contact [editor@basw.co.uk](mailto:editor@basw.co.uk)

**BASW**  
Wellesley House, 37 Waterloo Street,  
Birmingham B2 5PP  
Tel: 0121 622 3911 [www.basw.co.uk](http://www.basw.co.uk)

**Editor**  
Shahid Naqvi  
Email: [shahid.naqvi@basw.co.uk](mailto:shahid.naqvi@basw.co.uk)

**Assistant Editor**  
Andy McNicoll  
Email: [andy.mcnicoll@basw.co.uk](mailto:andy.mcnicoll@basw.co.uk)

**Production assistant**  
Susan Hatton  
Email: [s.hatton@basw.co.uk](mailto:s.hatton@basw.co.uk)

**Editorial Advisory Board**  
Avery Bowser (chair), Laura Davis,  
Peter Feldon, Lindsay Giddings, Sumayya  
Hanson, Daniel Keeler,  
Marrienne Palin, Bill Stone,  
Nicola Sylvester

**Advertising**  
David Nemes, Winterburn Media Ltd  
Tel: 01309 690063  
Email: [david@winterburnmedia.co.uk](mailto:david@winterburnmedia.co.uk)

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