

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NEWS

We have a duty to promote the vote

Helping people know their rights as election looms

PAGE 5



NEWS

Give disaster victims social workers

Manchester Mayor makes call for increased support

PAGE 7



IN FOCUS

We need to fight traumatising system

A social worker's experience on benefits

PAGE 17



IN FOCUS

Bringing together siblings in care

PSW visits an award-winning project

PAGE 22



VIEWPOINT

Social work's legacy of colonisation

And why it should not and cannot be ignored

PAGE 39



AT THE BACK

Back from the brink – for Xmas at least

Readers save Ask Derek from retirement

PAGE 42

From the Editor
SHAHID NAQVI



Celebrating the positive impact of what you do

With social workers picking up awards in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland in recent weeks it's been a good time to celebrate the profession.

This edition of *PSW* is also something of a celebration of social work and the positive impact it makes.

One word that comes up a lot throughout is advocacy. There are social workers advocating for people with learning disabilities to vote (page 5). The role of social work in advocating for those traumatised after losing loved ones in disasters is highlighted on page six. We cover the National Advocacy Conference on page 20 and elsewhere you can read about the need for social workers to advocate for people on benefits and how some workers are finding compassionate ways to resist oppressive systems within practice.

You will also hear about social workers practising in innovative ways to tackle isolation and work to bring separated siblings together.

By the time you read this we will be going to the polls or may already have a new government. Whatever happens, we know social workers will continue to advocate and support those who most need it in 2020. That's something to celebrate. Merry Christmas!

If you have a view on any of the editorial content or ideas for future articles contact editor@basw.co.uk

BASW
Wellesley House, 37 Waterloo Street,
Birmingham B2 5PP
Tel: 0121 622 3911 www.basw.co.uk

Editor
Shahid Naqvi
Email: shahid.naqvi@basw.co.uk

Assistant Editor
Andy McNicoll
Email: andy.mcnicoll@basw.co.uk

Production assistant
Susan Hatton
Email: s.hatton@basw.co.uk

Editorial Advisory Board
Marriane Palin and Daniel Keeler (co-chairs), Laura Davis, Lindsay Giddings, Sumayya Hanson, Bill Stone, Nicola Sylvester, Tim Parkinson, Yvonne Boyle

Advertising
David Nelmes, Winterburn Media Ltd
Tel: 01309 690063
Email: david@winterburnmedia.co.uk

Printed by: PCP Ltd
Haldane, Halesfield 1, Telford
TF7 4QQ

Published by The British Association of Social Workers
The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Association.

The paper used in this publication is sourced from sustainable forests.

ISSN 1352-3112. ©BASW 2019

BASW

The professional association for social work and social workers