

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NEWS

Sajid Javid urged to support social work

BASW sends letter to new health and care secretary
PAGE 6



NEWS

George Cross to NHS but not social care

Government criticised for bravery award snub
PAGE 7



IN FOCUS

Children's social care special

Ten page spotlight in wake of major report
PAGE 13



IN FOCUS

How to make it anti-racism

A local authority explains the journey they went on
PAGE 32



VIEWPOINT

Naming and shaming of workers must stop

Rosie Meleady speaking from personal experience
PAGE 39



AT THE BACK

Know your facts and dress well

How to make the right impression in court
PAGE 42

From the Editor
SHAHID NAQVI



Care, rights and relationships we can all agree on

It's the nature of reviews to find fault. Hence the title of the interim report from England's review into children's social care, *The Case for Change*.

What reviews like this don't capture quite so well are the many times when the system gets it right, the countless daily moments of often life-changing care and support given by professionals.

But no one is pretending improvements aren't needed. This edition gives voice to those with experience of care. Some of it may be uncomfortable reading but in essence their message is one that social workers would agree with – the need for a greater focus on care, rights and time for relationships.

Whatever your view on the review – and there is vigorous debate around it – the report does identify the need for these elements in the system. And also for greater resource and recognition of the impact of poverty on children and family life. Its criticism of practice as risk averse and adversarial is broadbrush but perhaps less aimed at social work than the system it works in. And if you want an insight into this then read this month's entry from our social worker diarist on page 43.

The bigger question, however, is will the government address the root causes that too often create a need for social care – rising inequality and poverty?

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