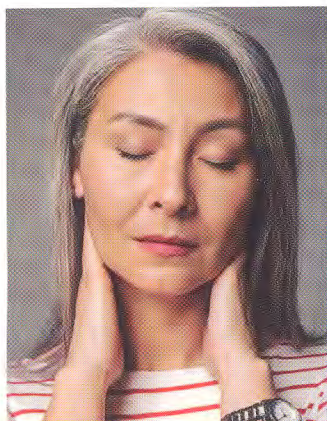


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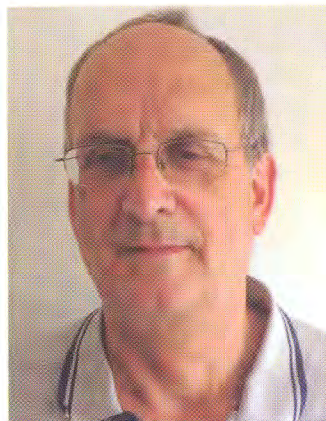


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## Have we already forgotten the sacrifices made?

Remember this time last year when we stood outside our doorsteps on a Thursday night clapping for carers?

Back then, there seemed to be an awareness that those in caring professions were in the frontline of the battle against Covid, often at huge personal cost to themselves.

Cynics, of course, said this show of solidarity was as much about the clappers needing a shared experience of community during lockdown as anything else.

A year on, have they been proved right? As the vaccines roll out and life appears to be returning to some kind of normality, wider society seems already to have forgotten the sacrifices made. A 1.5 per cent pay rise for local authority social workers has been branded "offensive" by the Social Workers Union and an "insult" by UNISON.

This edition of PSW is a reminder of the cost of caring. Social workers aren't the only workers to have been at the forefront of providing support during the pandemic. But they probably are the profession that has most comprehensively felt its traumatic impact on people, families and communities while often facing the same issues themselves. And it has left them exhausted.

People become social workers because they care about people. It's about time society cared for them too.

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