

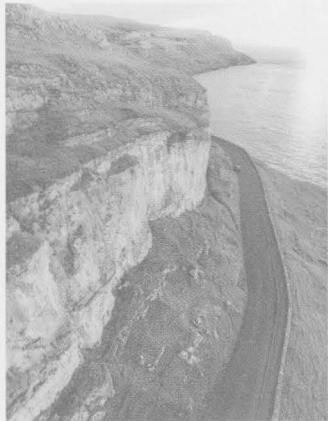
INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NEWS

Act or risk losing workforce asset

New head of children's services directors' warning
PAGE 8



NEWS

Call for rise in mileage rate

Welsh social workers 'penalised' for doing job
PAGE 11



IN FOCUS

Breaking the cycle of shame and blame

Spotlight on Fabricated or Induced Illness
PAGE 13

From the Editor
SHAHID NAQVI



Don't let social workers be tired of social work

Samuel Johnson said: "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life."

Perhaps the same can be said of social work. For there can be few – if any – profession that is so full of the stuff of life in all its rich complexity. It's probably why people never really leave social work, even when they stop practising.

But this complexity and richness is also what makes it a tough and demanding job.

Last month saw convictions of the murderers of seven-year-old Hakeem Hussain in Birmingham and five-year-old Logan Mwangi in Bridgend, Wales – two awful tragedies. As usual, social services were accused by the mainstream media of not acting.

Meanwhile, our spotlight on Fabricated or Induced Illness (page 13) and a play about a mother who has had multiple children taken into care (page 33) shows the impact of decisions to act. They are not easy calls – and they are not made just by social workers.

But to view social work only through a safeguarding and risk-management prism is to fundamentally misunderstand it. For actually the reverse is true – it's about empowering people and finding their strengths. This is how social workers want to spend their working life. But to do it well they need support – from their employers, from politicians and, yes, from the media too.



IN FOCUS

The SEND Review: will it lead to change?

A look at the long-awaited green paper to fix system
PAGE 18



VIEWPOINT

Are we worthy of their trust?

Dr Peter Jordan on a key quality in social work
PAGE 31



AT THE BACK

In sickness and in poverty

Polly Barnes looks into social work's archives
PAGE 32

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