

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NEWS

Focus on care to fix broken Britain

Message to Keir Starmer from sector
PAGE 5



NEWS

New rights for children in Scotland

But resource warning over incorporation of UNCRC
PAGE 9



IN FOCUS

'I owe it all to my social worker'

Care leaver's tribute to the worker who supported her
PAGE 14

From the Editor
SHAHID NAQVI



Shift of the dial, hopefully in the right direction

Austerity. Food banks. Hostile environment. PPI contracts for cronies. Partygate. Strikes. Cost of living and energy crisis. Liz Truss. Suella Braverman. The betting scandal.

Everyone knew it was time for a change from this tired old government. But what of its replacement? Will it be a new, or a false dawn?

It could be said voting is a bit of a gamble on the future. For some, Keir Starmer was just the least worst option. For the more optimistic, the new government offers a chance to reset the dial to a more caring, inclusive, stable and compassionate society.

Key parts of Labour's manifesto relevant to social work are set out on page 16 of this magazine. The manifesto includes big ambitions – there's talk of strategies to reduce child poverty, homelessness and knife crime. There's also investment in mental health and promises to tackle health inequality and climate change.

From a social work perspective, as far as I can tell only around half a dozen of BASW's 40 asks in its General Election Manifesto are met. So there is much work still to do, not least in addressing the many issues constraining good social work, as sector responses on page five show.

But a new government is a break from the past and at least offers hope for the future.



IN FOCUS

A sustainable future for social work

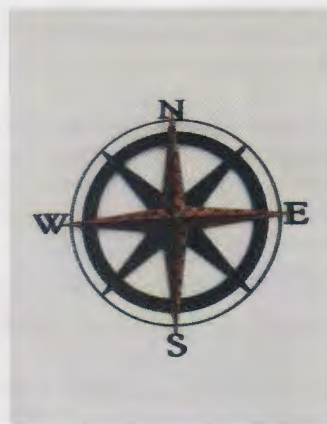
Four-page coverage of BASW's annual conference
PAGES 18-21



VIEWPOINT

Check your privilege working with us

A disability activists's lived experience message
PAGE 37



AT THE BACK

The social worker's compass

A new column by Richard Devine and Tim Fisher
PAGE 39

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