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From the Editor  
**SHAHID NAQVI**



## Despite all the challenges, this is why you do it

Amid all the doom and gloom, it's easy to wonder why social workers do the job they do. Local authorities are in a funding crisis and cutting services, which is increasing need and making the job harder.

Findings from BASW's annual survey launched this month reflect this. It shows a sector blighted by staffing shortages (now the biggest workplace concern), a lack of resources, the ever-increasing impact of the cost of living crisis and excessive workloads forcing practitioners to work overtime, which is largely unpaid.

But despite this, and consistent with findings elsewhere, the survey shows social workers believe in what they do. They know social work, when it's done well, can make a transformational difference to people's lives.

Nowhere is this better illustrated than in our cover feature on page 14, where social worker Debbie Amas and care leaver Lauren Musk reflect on their relationship 30 years after working together.

Lauren describes feeling "mattered" by someone that had her back. It's impossible not to be moved and inspired by their testimony. It's also a reminder of the power of good, relational social work that, despite all the challenges, happens every single day but mostly goes unheard.

If you have a view on any of our editorial content or ideas for future



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