



**BASW**  
The professional association for  
social work and social workers

# ‘Social Work Stands Against Poverty’

- Launched campaign in November 2022 and identified three areas that would help people
  - Lift two child cap on benefits
  - Extend the debt breathing space scheme to 180 days
  - Freeze evictions during the cost of living crisis to prevent further homelessness
- Dealing with a Government that doesn’t centre poverty as a giant to tackle
- Part of a coalition of other organisations to campaign on the big issues
- In March 2023 we launched our campaign in Parliament with MPs across the political spectrum
- Anti-Poverty Practice Guide
- ‘Spotlight on poverty’
- Representations and submissions to Treasury and Labour call for ‘evidence’
- Key part of our manifesto

# BASW and Housing

- Improving the quality and availability of housing in the UK will require political will and the necessary resource attached to it – this is a big challenge but an important one.
- We updated the Housing and Homelessness Position Statement and Recommendations
- Included housing recommendations as policy asks in the BASW General Election Manifesto 2024/25
- ‘Spotlight on Poverty: Housing’ to show how poverty impacts on availability, suitability, and stability of housing
- Renters Reform Bill
- With a change of Government, true housing reform may make the political agenda and it’s an issue we will continue to press

# Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

## Jo Schofield, Chair of UASC SIG

- Social workers have an important function with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (LA duties, age-assessments)
- National Age Assessment Board
  - Encouraged social workers to not work for the Home Office with a statement – HO attributed low sign ups to BASW statement
- Illegal Migration Act
  - Permission for Home Secretary to:
    - Deport asylum seekers who travel through ‘illegal’ route including UASC
    - Scientific methods of age assessment
- BASW’s activity
  - Partnered with Refugee Council and Royal Colleges to inform decision makers about impact of recent legislation on UASC
  - Presented to MPs and Lords about the impact of the Illegal Migration Act on UASC
  - Political pressure through parliamentary questions
  - Key asks are part of BASW’s manifesto
  - Age Assessment Practice Guide