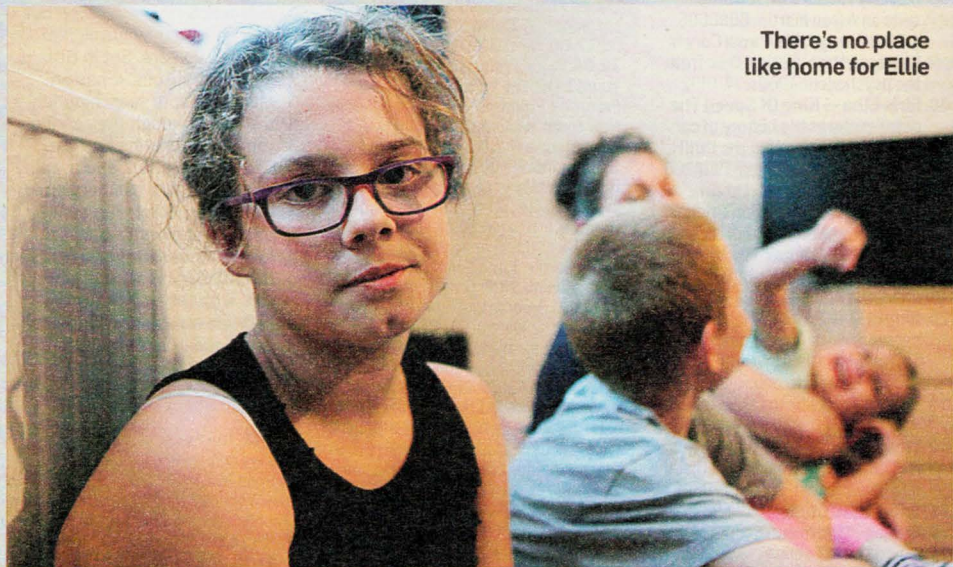


Tuesday

3 March

Critics' choice



There's no place like home for Ellie

Pick of the day

No Place To Call Home (BBC1, 10.45pm)

Jeza Neumann won a Bafta for China's *Stolen Children*, and he puts kids at the centre of the story again in this affecting film following two London families in temporary accommodation. Ellie, 11, her mother, Erica, and three younger siblings are staying in a hostel; they all get on each other's nerves in the cramped space and Ellie misses having friends visit her. JJ, 10, lives

with his mum, Nicole, and baby sister, initially also in a hostel, but later Nicole is forced to sofa-surf.

No Place To Call Home ends awkwardly, with hope — at last — for both families clashing with a grim message that, on the basis of current trends, homelessness is bound to increase. But by then its points have been well made, by statistics set out in captions as well as interviews with Ellie and JJ: the damage done to children's mental health, social life and schoolwork by insecurity and constantly changing addresses and schools.

JOHN DUGDALE