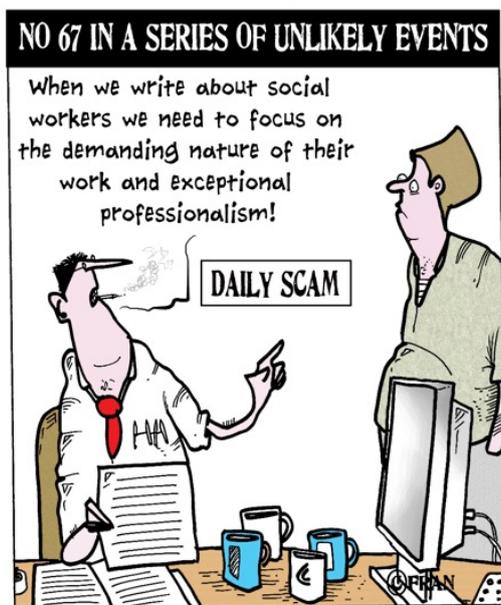


PAG Public Meeting 'Childrens' social Workers - Are they getting it right?' **A**

**presentation by Maggie Mellon,
Vice-Chair, British Association of Social Workers
7.30pm Monday 29th June 2015
Manx Legion Club. Market Hill, Douglas
- FREE ADMISSION, ALL WELCOME -**



Child protection is often in the UK news these days. Parents fleeing the judgements of secret family courts, forced adoptions, Councils ignoring abuse in care homes, institutional child abuse inquires and so on. All this when the memory of tragically missed abuse cases like Victoria Climbié and Baby 'P' are still raw. But the Isle of Man has had its' own troubles with three child care inquires. Just this month in Tynwald the Social Affairs Policy Review Committee presented a report on the over referral of cases to Children and Families Social Services in which they recommended a new false reporting offence to deter malicious reports of child abuse.

So how does the Isle of Man deal with the delicate balance between child protection and family autonomy? Are too many children being investigated by Social Services? Are children in the care of the state being treated well and does the Isle of Man carry out contentious forced adoptions? What lessons can we learn from the UK?

For its final public meeting before the summer recess Positive Action Group (PAG) has invited child protection expert Maggie Mellon to examine these issues.

Maggie Mellon (MSc CQSW Dip Child Protection), is a social worker with over 35 years experience. She is currently the Chair of the Policy, Ethics & Human Rights Committee at the

PAG public meeting: Childrens Social Workers

Written by PAG

Tuesday, 17 February 2015 22:11

British Association of Social Workers. Formerly head of public policy for NCH Action for Children Scotland, and Director of Services for Children 1st, Maggie is a social work consultant with a strong emphasis on family and child rights and welfare. Maggie was Chair of the Scottish Child Law Centre until 2012 and is currently a Non Executive Director of NHS Health Scotland (2008 -), and Vice Chair of the British Association of Social Workers (2014 –).

The Policy, Ethics and Human Rights Committee are concerned about rising numbers of children in care, of children who are compulsorily adopted and about the thresholds for investigation and for compulsory measures.

Her Committee recently published this memo expressing concern over adoption policy in the UK:

<https://www.basw.co.uk/news/article/?id=962>

Join us for what promises to be a highly topical and lively debate.

The meeting is free and open to all