

**PAG Public Meeting 'Fit for Purpose?'**  
**Health and Social Services on the Isle of Man'**

**A talk by**

**Dr Malcolm Couch**

**Chief Executive, DHSC**

**7.30pm Monday 26th October 2015**

**Manx Legion Club. Market Hill, Douglas**

**- FREE ADMISSION, ALL WELCOME -**

**PUGH**



*'I'm so surprised to see you I can't think now why I'm here'*

We all cherish our Health and Social Care system and wish it to prosper. No doubt it will be the topic of much debate in the months up to 2016 General Election.

Positive Action Group (PAG) ignites that discussion with its next public meeting on 26th October 2015, at the Manx Legion Club, Douglas.

We learn that the UK Health Service deficit is expected to be about £2 billion this year. Yet here in the Isle of Man the Health Minister says "We have a well-funded service...."

So do we need to be concerned about the future provision?

The latest Report ["Health and social care services in the Isle of Man - the next 5 years"](#) is an

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updated strategy document which gives direction as to how to improve health and well being and to deal with economic and demographic pressures by becoming more efficient.

The goals are:

1. for people to take greater responsibility for their own health.
2. to help people stay well in their own homes and communities, avoiding hospital or residential care whenever possible.
3. to improve services for people who really do need care in hospital.
4. to provide safeguards for people who cannot protect themselves.
5. to ensure that people receive good value health and social care.

It was a shock in June this year when it was announced that the then DHSC Chief Executive , who had been in post less than a year, had resigned.

Confidence was restored with the appointment of Dr Malcolm Couch, formerly Chief Financial Officer of the Treasury as the new Chief.

He brings a wealth of skill and experience to the post derived from a wide-ranging career. He has a track-record of strategy and policy development and is well respected by the Manx public.

The future direction of Health and Social Care is of paramount interest to all citizens old or young. It is in the safe pair of hands of Dr Couch, whom we are delighted has agreed to present his ideas direct to the public, shortly after receiving the approval of Tynwald. Dr Couch clearly communicates his ideas and is at ease with meeting people.

One of the concepts being promoted in the Report is "integration" in providing better care and more efficient care.

Anyone who wants to find out more should pop along to the Legion. As usual there will be an opportunity to question the speaker. The meeting is free and open to all."

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