



Silly Sausage Corner

Hello my festive silly sausages, although as I scribble these thoughts it's difficult to be full of Christmas joy as I am immersed instead in the media frenzy, public witch hunt and political mania following the criminal trial of those who caused the horrific death, and horrific life, of 'Baby P'.

You may, like me, have had difficulty containing the anger about what happened to 'Baby P' but also the anger about the treatment dished out to those who were in contact with 'Baby P' trying to improve his life and trying to protect him. May be by the time you read this it will have quietened down a little and there will be space for rational reflection, but we know when media bullies sense blood they will not leave it alone. Just think of all those government ministers who have been hounded out of their jobs.

Which confirms what I wrote in my last Silly Sausage missive about the fickleness of much of the media and the public. You never know which stories will excite their interest. What we do know, however, is that they will be tremendously self-righteous and all-knowing. Let's just hope social workers hold their nerve when parts of the media and too many of the public have lost their heads.

But isn't it about time to set some limits on the vindictiveness and intrusiveness of the media? Identifying individuals who professionally have given their lives to helping children, encouraging the mob to seek them

out for irrational vengeance, to demand that they lose their work and give up their commitment to care for children, inviting anyone who knows them to use the press to rubbish and dump on them, and to harass them and their families ... behaviours not dissimilar to some of the intimidating threatening abusers who as well as dominating and damaging their children also seek to distract and deter those who give their professional lives trying to protect children.

And the behaviour of the media bigots and bullies will have the same consequence ... those closest to children in danger will now be distracted with their time gobbled up with inquiries, inspections and investigations, and their managers, who should also be focussed on the children and front-line practice, will be fiddling around with the requirement to reorganise and to introduce new procedures and plans and more reports for the government and the inspectorates.

Crazy! Stupid! It would be a little better if we could think the New Year could be different, with no children dying through abuse and no hue and

cry when it will happen again. And what's even worse I've bought some of the tabloids recently to keep track of their vindictiveness and vile, so they achieved their aim of selling more papers and making more profits.

OK ... rant over, and apologies that this is not very festive at a time of 'peace and goodwill' to all, but I do hope you have a good break over the holiday period (although of course some of us silly sausages will still be out there working hard to keep children safe!).