

Notes of the Birmingham TUC Health Campaign Committee – 2nd April 2014 Meeting

Apologies were received from Sarah Edwards and Alexandra Fraser

1. **George Elliot Hospital Nuneaton** – members were pleased to hear that the privatisation threat has been halted, but remain concerned that the long term future has not yet been defined clearly.

In relation to this, the Committee had a discussion about the emerging threat to **Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield**. The Committee was unable to provide a member to attend the public meeting (April 3rd).

Action: It was agreed that Stuart Richardson would try to get Roger Barley, who was attending, to help provide a report-back for the next Committee meeting.

Additionally, as Good Hope is part of Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust, Ian Scott agreed to contact Lord Hunt (the Trust Chair) for a view on what issues were emerging at the hospital.

2. **Manifesto** – Patrick Highton circulated a draft manifesto amended from an original circulated by Bristol 'Protect Our NHS'.

Action: It was agreed that this would be circulated by email and that interested members would add their suggested amendments before the end of the month in order to circulate an updated version for the next meeting (May 7th).

Additionally it was agreed that, over time, this could be built up into a campaigning document that could be circulated to Birmingham TUC for adoption and action, particularly pre-election in 2014/15.

3. Affiliation to Keep Our NHS Public

Action: It was agreed that this should be explored and, if appropriate forms are available, we should seek affiliation.

4. NHS Policy Development to Re-organise and 'Downsize' A& E Provision

John Caffrey raised some of the policy developments outlined in a recent address by the departing NHS England Chief Executive. A key proposal was to develop 40-70 major emergency/urgent care centres (following the benefits from Trauma and Stroke service centralisation) rather than A&E.

There was a discussion around the balance between modernisation and cost-cutting, as well as the political implications of such proposals in the context of groupings such as ours.

Action: It was agreed to contact Chidi Ejimofa of the Lewisham Hospital Campaign for a view on this.

5. Community Mental Health Service for under-25 year olds, Birmingham – possible privatisation

Jolyon Jones gave the further background to this (email previously circulated to the Committee). He pointed out that Lord Warner, the Labour Peer with a health background, had recently been appointed to look into Children's Services improvements at Birmingham City Council. Lobbying him on this matter would be a helpful tactic and also expose some of the lack of funding in this area.

Actions agreed: Raise the issue of the need for full tendering with our contacts in Birmingham South & Central CCG

- John Caffrey to contact Amos Mallard and Janet Moir to contact Nyla Ahmed
- Patrick Highton to identify the date of the next CCG Board; PH to circulate this and ask for attendance from Committee members (note: next available in Birmingham S & C CCG Board meeting is now Monday 9th June - midday - 6 pm at the Saffron Centre, 256 Moseley Road, Highgate, Birmingham, B12 0DL).

6. Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletters, etc

Ian Scott made a plea for the Committee to be more formally constituted in order to support him as Chair and to spread the workload.

Patrick Highton was nominated as Secretary and this was agreed.

Tony St John was nominated as Treasurer and this was agreed.

Pete Murphy was nominated as Trade Union Liaison Officer and this was agreed.

We agreed to the first Wednesday of every month at the Upper Floor meeting room of the Wellington, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham. Stuart Richardson booked this room until July.

7. AoB

PH indicated that, looking at the Unite website, he had been very impressed by the campaign information and materials issued by the union. The Chair commented that we were looking forward to a further indication that Unite would affiliate to Keep Our NHS Public and, as a member he would explore this further. Additionally, it was noted that we have two very able officers from the union who are members of the committee, which we will help us build campaigns for the future.

8. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the BTUC Health Campaign Committee will be held on **Wednesday 7th May 2014 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Upper Floor meeting room of the Wellington, 37 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, B2 5SN.