

Yorkshire Health Campaigns Together network meeting 8.2.19

Present:

Mike Forster, chair (Hands off HRI)
 Chris Owen Huddersfield
 Chrstine Hyde Dewsbury Keep Our NHs Public, Save Dewsbury Hospitals campaign, 999 call for the NHS
 Luisa Fletcher Barnsley Save Our NHS and South Yorks and Bassetlaw Action Group
 Nora Everitt “ “ “
 Julie Ingram “ “ “ and Barnsley Mental Health Forum
 Steve Merriman Doncaster Save our NHS “ “
 Diane Caster Rotherham Save our NHS “ “
 Ken Dolan “ “ “
 Sharon Milan Sheffield Save Our NHS
 John Wane Save Scarborough and District Hospital
 Nigel Smith Defend Our NHS York
 Gwen Vardigans “ “ and York Mental Health Action Group
 Sylvia Graves “ “ “ “ “
 Susan Snelgrove “ “ “ “ “
 Ann Weerakoon “ “ “ “ “
 Geoff Lee Airedale 38 Degrees
 Helen Burke Leeds Keep Our NHs Public and Harrogate Labour Party
 John Ingleson Unison Branch chair, Leeds Teaching Hospitals
 Wilson Tweed Unite Branch chair, Leeds Teaching Hospitals
 John Puntis Leeds Keep Our NHS Public and KONP national sec, Doctors for the NHS
 Mike Galvin “ “ Doctors for the NHS
 Gay Bennet “ “
 Gilda Peterson “ “
 Beatrice Rogers Chair of Leeds Hospital Alert
 Sylvia Landells Leeds Hospital Alert

Apologies : Colin Hutchinson (chair Doctors for the NHS) Councillor Paul Trusswell, Leeds, Jenny Shepherd, 9999 Call for the NHS Kirklees and Calderdale, Anne Leonard, Defend Our NHS York

Issue	Update / Discussion	Action
NHS 10 Year Plan	<p>Much shared criticism re promised cash too little, plans not new; some not bad but uncosted - more of a wish list. No money for social care, nothing much about children. Little acknowledgement or plans to deal with two third of Trusts already in the red, the backlog for maintenance, estimated at £6bn., over 100,000 NHS posts empty and beds full beyond safe limits. Nora highlighted serious failings re equitability and accountability. Implementation is going to be rapid, speeding up cuts and privatisation. We need to counteract any public misapprehension that the plan seriously addresses the chronic underfunding and privatisation of our NHS. There was a lobby of the NHS England meeting in London on 31st Jan and KONP member and nurse, Gay Lee made an excellent intervention at the end of the meeting re staffing. John Puntis had a letter published in the Yorkshire Eve Post re the plan 23.1.19 .</p>	<p>We need press releases, local actions, info for councillors. Expose staffing issues and link up with trade unions Useful analyses of the plan here :</p> <p>KONP national website https://keepournhspublic.com/news/nhs-long-term-plan-unfunded-undemocratic-unfair-unsafe/ Health Campaigns Together https://www.healthcampaignstogether.com/analysis.php 999 Call for the NHS :Jenny Shepherd’s article highlights what changes people will notice when the NHS is run by ICS. https://calderdaleandkirklees999callforthenhs John Puntis’ letter to the YEP : see below This week’s Private Eye has some exposure re the cash. Leeds Konp is protesting outside LGI Feb 9th and has sent out a press release. Barnsley had had a public meeting and are putting together a press release. 999 are cooking up plans. More later ...</p>

<p>Integrated Care Systems</p>	<p>Nora noted South Yorks ICS is going live in April; secrecy is a huge problem, particularly in Barnsley. Barnsley CCG is being assessed for an integrated provider contract. They are saying 80% will be done at place/ local level, 20% at regional ICS level. Sharon said that Sheffield LA are part of the ICS but only their public health people are attending meetings and the Council seems keen to prevent Sheffield going down the ICS route. They are also saying that they can't perform proper Scrutiny until they get fully worked out plans.</p> <p>John said that the judge in the Pollock/ Hawkings JR said he couldn't rule that ICS are illegal because the Govt were going to do consultation but there has been no feedback from this consultation as far as we know.</p> <p>Nora said that legislation in the long term plan will remove the Govt's obligation to consult with the public.</p> <p>Gilda said that our key target should be councillors as health bodies unlikely to move.</p> <p>Chris Owen said they have been trying to get resolutions urging Councils not to co-operate through constituency LP meetings with some success.eg Dewsbury and Batley after John Puntis addressed the meeting. Colne Valley looking positive.</p> <p>Christine said that north Tyneside have been successful in getting their LA to withdraw from the ICS.</p> <p>Nora thought Rotherham council were stepping back a bit. South Yorks Action group are challenging the lack of scrutiny by sending a solicitors letter to Council leaders (cost £75).</p> <p>Ken said that the local Integrated Care Plan for Rotherham went through ealth and Wellbeing without discussion and a meeting re a local health and social services review was ill advertised and had few public there. He said that overall public consultation is done in a submarine- when they want people to know they put up a periscope. (thanks for neat expression!)</p> <p>Nigel from York said that Labour councillors haven't been very helpful. Gwen said York Scrutiny Board haven't been looking at the joint ICS but are getting started.</p>	<p>Share resolutions re ICS et al to put through Labour Party branches and CLPs</p> <p>Nora let people see the solicitor's letter if that is possible or at least have gist</p> <p>All continue to share any successes in getting Labour branches, councillors, or whole Councils to take a step back from ICS</p> <p>Most groups are attending local and System wide Scrutiny Boards and CCG mtgs questioning/ hassling.</p> <p>Campaigners in West Yorks and H'gate are taking up an offer to meet with Head of the ICPartnerhsip</p> <p>999 Call for the NHS are appealing the Judge's decision in their Judicial Review. No more funds needed at the moment.</p> <p>They are asking groups to amend and send a template to support their action. (see attached)</p>
<p>Challenging charges for "migrants"</p>	<p>John said that it is now mandatory for Trusts to assess eligibility for free NHS care. There are an estimated 600,000 migrants in the UK but health care for migrants is often conflated with so called "health tourism". It is not cost effective to collect charges – estimated at 0.3% of the NHS budget but charging succeeds in creating a hostile climate and sets the scene for extending charges more widely across the NHS. If a "migrant" can't pay NHS charges and is in debt more than £500 they can be reported to the Home Office. Many will be pushed into avoiding health care which is not only bad for them but bad for public health.</p> <p>Lewisham and Greenwich did an FOI re nos. of women charged for maternity care over the last 10 years – 540. John has done an FOI to Leeds Teaching Hospital and a Leeds KONP supporter has had some success challenging hostile notices in the hospital. Liverpool had a conference on migrant charges/ access to health care which was followed by a meeting with health staff.</p> <p>Mike Galvin said it was vital to involve staff and wondered how many are directly affected / involved in the vetting process.</p> <p>Nigel said there are UN rules re who must get treatment. Gwen said Hitchin Hospital had a big notice saying that you may live and work here and own your own house but still not be entitled to free NHS care.</p>	<p>It was suggested that as many groups as possible do FOIs re migrant charges so we can build up a picture re the scale of the problem and co-ordinate opposition</p> <p>KONP have a useful leaflet and the</p> <p>HCT national website has a model question you can ask Trusts on www.healthcampaignstogether.com</p> <p>Also talk to the trade unions re what they are doing and might do and to NHS staff and GPs.</p> <p>Link up with organisations defending migrant rights and fighting racism</p> <p>If we agree to have a Conference on health and social care we will ensure that there is a session on the issue and action considered.</p>

<p>Some local campaigns</p> <p>YORK</p> <p>BARNESLEY</p> <p>SCARBORO..</p> <p>SHEFFIELD</p> <p>HANDS OFF HRI</p>	<p>A Wholly Owned subsidiary has been set up at YORK THT although Unite is balloting for strike action.</p> <p>Gwen (RCN) noted that though nursing recruitment was down they are now filling quotas on courses.</p> <p>Ann V highlighted the growing role of the voluntary sector in mental health provision and expressed concern re sustaining NHS beds and facilities for people with severe and enduring mental health problems. A meeting of Tees and Esk valley Trust exposed how limited provision is going to be.</p> <p>Nora said that they are exploring a possible legal challenge re changes made without consultation and building good links with the trade unions. They have been invited to a staffside meeting.</p> <p>John W reported that they have managed to build substantial resistance to local cuts, stormed a meeting , set up an on line survey, made an impact at meetings. Stroke and cardiac services have gone, people are being shuffled between Scarborough, Hull and York. One man died in Hull Hospital having been sent from A&E in Scarborough to York before being sent to Hull. Transport and distance are big issues as well as bullying and morale amongst staff. 70% of staff reported bullying in the Trust's own survey.</p> <p>Sharon reported that Sheffield are campaigning re cuts to maternity and paediatric services not so much in Sheffield but in the surrounding areas. Distance and costs of travel are big issues. They have had public meetings, got University students and trade unions involved, are launching a petition and aiming to work with SYN BAG. They have been enthused re victories over the potential closure of a minor injuries and walk in centre..</p> <p>Mike F noted that HOHRI are going into their 4th year of campaigning. They had substantial success opposing the plan to close A&E at HRI and bulldoze the hospital but the revised plan still involves substituting an Urgent care centre for A&E at Huddersfield , centralising specialist services elsewhere and winding down the HRI. Hands Off's new tack is to focus on workforce strategy which is being used as a reason for shrinking HRI. They are preparing a detailed case and are going to have a People's Commission. They are still keeping up the HONK for HRI every fortnight and with Jenny from 999 and Christine from Dewsbury, they met with the head of the Trust.</p>	
<p>Social Care</p>	<p>Gilda noted that Since the successful conference in November in Birmingham, the HCT group is now meeting every 2 months – next meeting Thursday 28th Feb in Birmingham. We have produced a flier calling for people to get behind the campaign. to get the market out of Social care and have publicly provided care funded by taxation and free at the point of use. In Leeds we gave out this leaflet on Dignity Day, 1st Feb. A subgroup has been set up to explore funding issues and arguments and will raise the issues at the meeting on 28th Feb The next meeting should be late April and is likely to focus on reversing outsourcing.</p> <p>Sylvia from Leeds Hospital Alert said that vulnerable people are being pursued by debt collectors and threatened with court action over unpaid debts for social care!</p> <p>Christine said we must include children and child poverty within the social care remit.</p>	<p>Contact Gilda for more info re the HCT subgroup</p>

<p>Yorks March for the NHS Sat. 30.3 11.30 Leeds Art Gallery</p>	<p>Postcards advertising the march were brought to the meeting. The format is much as last year. Opportunity for a minute or two on the mic for campaigners 11.20 – 12. March about 12.10-1pm, Samba band in front, melodeons et al further back. Short rally about 1- 1.40. Everyone welcome in the Victoria Hotel afterwards. It is s directly behind the Town Hall and we can overspill into Shenanigans a few doors down.</p> <p>Mike has Paula Sherrif, shadow minister for mental health to speak and Jane Aitchison, Leeds TUC and PCS activist, also PPC for Pudsey is going to make sure social care issues, children and families are covered. We will also make sure that we have a health worker.</p>	<p>Please share pdf and jpegs of the march and distribute postcards as widely as possible, get trade unions and LP and GP branches to bring banners as well as lots of people and make big effort to get health workers on the march.</p> <p>If you can get donations towards costs from your trade union that would be great</p>
<p>possible Northern HCT Health & Social Care Conference in June ?</p>	<p>The possibility of having a Northern HCT Conference was touched on at the last meeting and there has also been interest in having a Conference on Social Care from Leeds Hospital Alert and others. Today there was widespread agreement that we should endeavour to cover both issues in one Conference, have short inputs and plenty of time for discussion but no workshops.</p> <p>G had established that St. George’s Centre in Leeds had several free Saturdays in June and HCT not planning a national Conference until the autumn. However Mike said HCT are now considering a national Conference on mental health in summer.</p>	<p>Mike to clarify HCT national plans and their views on a northern Conference and G, Mike and John to circulate ideas for a suggested agenda if we go ahead.</p> <p>Update from Mike HCT looking at possible mental health Conference in London in July but happy to support a Northern Conference in June. Gilda has established June 29th OK for St. George’s .</p>
<p>Other events</p> <p>Groundswell film shows in Kirklees</p> <p>KONP SG</p> <p>KONP AGM</p>	<p>Christine has organised 3 showings of the film Groundswell by John Furze which grew out of the People’s march for the NHS. These are at in Kirklees 1st, 2nd and 3rd April</p> <p>The next national Steering group of KONP will be held in Leeds on March 9th. (11.30 – 4pm) This is a delegate meeting but some KONP members can be accommodated as observers.</p>	<p>Groundswell showings : Monday April 1st: 7 – 9pm Dewsbury Town Hall, Wakefield Old Rd WF12 8DG. Tuesday, April 2nd 7pm: Jo Cox House, 3-5 Branch Road, Batley. Wed. Wed April 3rd 7pm Huddersfield Methodist Mission, 3-13 Lord St. HD1 1QA.</p> <p>KONP AGM Sat. 15th June in LONDON More details later</p>

NEXT MEETING OF YORKSHIRE HEALTH CAMPAIGNS TOGETHER NETWORK WILL BE ON FRIDAY 12th APRIL 1-4pm in the Union Regional office, Commerce House, Wade Lane LS 2 8NJ

Addendum : John Puntis’ letter to YEP 23.1.19 on the 10 year plan

I read with scepticism Stephen Hammond’s claim (YEP January 17th) that “the NHS plan will preserve the nation’s most prized asset”. The ‘plan’ aims to keep people well and identify illness earlier – both dependent on adequate funding and sufficient staff. Two thirds of acute Trusts are in the red, compared with 5% in 2010. Cancer waiting times are the worst on record, huge problems exist in A&E, and the average wait for a GP appointment is up 30% to two weeks. Until eight years ago, the NHS budget was increased annually by 4% to meet rising demand, before being savagely cut to 1%. The Office for Public Responsibility estimates a 4.3% increase is needed. £20.5 bn does not make up for the accumulated financial deficit, increases the overall budget by only 3.4%, and not until 2023/4. The ‘plan’ also intends to implement a top down reorganisation, with 44 ‘Integrated Care Systems’, lacking in public accountability (everything about you decided without you) and unprotected from takeover by the private sector. Forced mergers of GP practices will cover populations of 30-50,000, causing accessibility problems for many. Whereas most of the 60+ uncoded commitments in the ‘plan’ to improve services would be welcome, they are completely unrealistic given the funding offered. An obsession with non-evidence based digital solutions, lack of a workforce plan to tackle the current 100,000 vacancies, absence of information on how much capital will be available for new projects, and ignoring the crisis in social care all spell further misery for patients. £20.5 bn may help keep the lights on, but this ‘plan’ is in reality a recipe for the destruction of our most prized asset. ‘Leeds Keep Our NHS Public’ invites the public to join a demonstration demanding proper NHS funding: 11.30 on March 30th outside the art gallery.

