

## Yorkshire Health Campaigns Together Meeting 14.8.20

**Present:** Mike Forster , chair ( Huddersfield) , John Puntis ( Leeds and co- chair of national KONP ), Mike Galvin ( Wakefield and Leeds KONP) Colin Hutchinson, ( Halifax and chair of Docs for the NHS ) , Jenny Shepherd (999 Call for the NHS Kirklees and Calderdale ) ) Brenda Brown, ( Shipley) Gwen Vardigans, Nigel Smith and Malcom Law ( York ) Chris Owen ( Huddersfield) Helen Burke ( Harrogate and Leeds KONP ) Ann West ( Bradford ) Gilda Peterson ( Leeds KONP ) . **Apologies:** Sylvia Landells (Leeds Hospital Alert).

Issue	Update/ Discussion	Action
<p><b>News/ recent events</b></p> <p><b>NHS pay protests 8.8</b></p>	<p>About 250, including a fair number of NHS staff turned out for a well organised, socially distanced, protest in Leeds. Nurses in particular feel sidelined as despite pulling out all the stops in the pandemic they haven't been offered any new money, unlike teachers et al. Support from TUs and Labour branches not evidenced in banners at the protest although late in the day there had been positive messages from Unite and others and there were speakers from Leeds and York TUC and Unison activists ( Adrian O'Malley from mid Yorks). Nurses United ( Anthony Johnson et al) took the lead in Leeds. Nigel made links with an enthusiastic health worker in York who is one of many new grassroots activists. John said that NU is strong in some US states . It's objectives here not entirely clear; however it doesn't seem to be trying to set itself up as an alternative TU. Platform speakers in Leeds were encouraging people to join trade unions. There were protests in Sheffield and Doncaster and quite a other towns round the country, with about 3,000 at the main demo in London.</p> <p>John noted that further action is being planned for 26<sup>th</sup> August, currently at 5pm outside hospitals. Meanwhile Unison - and Gwen thinks RCN too - are beginning to put pressure on the Govt to re-open the nurses' 2 year pay deal which still has another year to run.</p>	<p><b>Nigel</b> urging York TUC to support the pay protests and trying to build links with new activists.</p> <p><b>Mike in his role as chair of HCT</b> is meeting with key trade unions on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept when he aims to press them to get stuck in on the pay issue.</p> <p><b>Gwen</b> is pressing the RCN in York</p> <p><b>Share info re action on 26<sup>th</sup> and support where poss.</b> – prob. 5pm at local hospitals.</p>
<p><b>Test, Trace and Isolate</b></p>	<p>John said the saga rolls on – with Government still failing to get to grips with what's needed. Serco are dropping 6,000 of their tier 1 staff and the media seems to be suggesting that these staff and cash is going to local teams but this is not the case. He thinks it is Tier 2 staff – the returning retired doctors et al working for public health who are going to be redeployed to local teams. 'We Own It' have been campaigning over contracts going to the private sector and national protests have been called for this Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> calling for the Govt. not to renew contracts to SRCO and SITEL. Jenny noted that their contracts have been renewed temporarily for 8 weeks from 23/8.</p> <p>Colin said Public Health England have given a little on their stance that all tracing has got to be done centrally. He is involved with getting the Calderdale tracing group off the ground. He hasn't heard of any staff being transferred in. PHE are referring those people with positive tests who they have failed to contact for 48 hours. The local team then will then try to chase them up by door knocking if necessary and identify contacts, although most of these are being referred back to PHE. It is isolation that is key to breaking the chain of infection and there is little or no resources put in to making this happen or checking if it does. They are encouraging the Council to explore isolation hostels. Pressing for sick pay for all self isolating is also vital ( Andy Burnham has been speaking out on this ); also working on prevention eg. having Covid champions locally.</p> <p>Jenny's Upper Calder Valley mutual aid group has fed into the Calderdale</p>	<p><b>Colin</b> to keep us posted about the Calderdale track and trace project which goes live next week.</p> <p><b>J &amp; G</b> organising a "Not a Penny More to Serco" protest next Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> at 1pm outside Leeds Civic Hall.</p> <p><b>Jenny</b> taking up challenges over the inadequacy of national data gathering and sharing with local areas</p> <p>We need to explore</p>

	<p>council project. They have been advocating for an eliminate strategy, not containment which seems to be PHE's objective, for proper access to data and for particular support for key workers who are not only most at risk but are now getting aggravation from members of the public who see them as high risk. Jenny noted that Our NHS / Open Democracy have commissioned her to write an article on test, trace and isolate.</p> <p>Gwen said that the Director of Public Health in York is keen to get a test and trace system set up locally.</p>	<p>ways of pursuing pay for all self isolators.</p> <p><b>G</b> maybe talk to Unison who had some success re care workers in Salford/ Manchester.</p>
<p><b>31 more treatments due to be cut / severely restricted.</b></p>	<p>Jenny passed on details – circulated previously but also here <a href="https://www.aomrc.org.uk/ebi/">https://www.aomrc.org.uk/ebi/</a></p> <p>The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges is inviting feedback but their consultation closes 24<sup>th</sup> August. Jenny suggested that it might be helpful in responding if any docs can comment on the treatments but they are many and diverse. John noted that NICE don't seem to have put their stamp on the new list. Agreed our key response remains as before – trust the docs, don't micro-manage, let them do what they feel best in consultation with the particular patient. Also note that having to make special cases increases GPs' workload unnecessarily. John has sent it round the KONP SG.</p>	<p><b>If you feel able to respond to the consultation, please do.</b> Simple answers are fine; we don't need to get dragged into the detail.</p> <p><b>Mike F</b> going to send the doc to his local BMA rep.</p>
<p><b>Getting back on track with official Board meetings:</b> Scrutiny, CCGs, Health &amp; Wellbeing, Partnership et al.</p>	<p>Meetings getting back on track on Zoom. Papers on the internet as usual and most Boards accept questions although no longer necessarily deal with these in the mtg. Meetings are generally streamed and recorded.</p> <p>Colin noted that West Yorks. Scrutiny Board met a few weeks ago and agreed to send a letter to Matt Hancock re the lack of support and scrutiny of the funding for test and trace systems.</p>	<p><b>Please try to track local mtgs</b>, read papers, ask questions where possible, watch on line.</p> <p>Kirklees &amp; Calderdale joint Scrutiny probably 25.9 Leeds Scrutiny 15.9</p>
<p><b>John Lister HCT/ KONP “ A Rescue Plan: 2020 Vision for a post Covid NHS”</b></p>	<p>The second iteration of the plan was discussed at a joint HCT/ KONP delegates mtg. 1<sup>st</sup> August. It need more changes eg to the piece on Social Care but John having an op and won't be able to do a 3<sup>rd</sup> version until October. Meanwhile it is suggested we can share and use locally.</p> <p>Gilda noted that they have discussed it in Leeds KONP and agreed to prepare a simple, customised charter of demands ( currently seven but just getting started) with appropriate national and local evidence. Hope that we can take these to LP and trade union branches and use with Councillors, MPs et al. but also raise key demands with the public eg re urgently reducing the waiting list for elective care and new assessments and re-instating face to face contact with GPs.</p>	<p><b>G</b> to circulate the revised Rescue Plan</p> <p><b>Local groups</b> might like to discuss best use in their area.</p> <p><b>G</b> will share any material Leeds KONP get together.</p> <p><b>We could also discuss poss. joint action</b> at the next Yorks HCT mtg and KONP &amp; HCT AGMs</p>
<p><b>Update re Social Care Campaign.</b></p>	<p>Motion for LP, trade union and community org branches to be circulated within the next few weeks. Petition can't be set up until early October. Zoom launch planned 10.10</p>	

<p><b>Local News</b></p> <p>999 / Calderdale</p> <p>York</p> <p>Bradford</p> <p>Barnsley</p> <p>Hands Of Hudds. Royal Infirmary</p>	<p>Jenny said she has had very unsatisfactory responses to her questions to the West Yorks and H'gate joint CCGs and is batting back. <a href="https://calderdaleandkirklees999callforthenhs.wordpress.com/2020/08/12/west-yorks-and-harrogate-integrated-care-system-claims-about-response-to-covid19-beggar-belief/">https://calderdaleandkirklees999callforthenhs.wordpress.com/2020/08/12/west-yorks-and-harrogate-integrated-care-system-claims-about-response-to-covid19-beggar-belief/</a></p> <p>Nigel planning to help Gemma from the pay protest give out badges at the local hospital and build links. Gwen et al trying to reboot Defend Our NHS YORK. Gwen thanked John for BMJ articles and said she was dismayed to hear that public path labs are being overtaken by 29 Lighthouse commercial labs.</p> <p>Brenda highlighted the scale of inequalities in the way the pandemic has hit Bradford eg. 40% of deaths are in the most deprived quintile ( fifth of the population) yet only 7% in the least deprived quintile.</p> <p>Not represented at the meeting but Jenny said Christine from Dewsbury in touch with them and has said they are concentrating on the response from their local Integrated Care System to NHEs demand for areas to submit their re-set plans on 21<sup>st</sup> Sept.</p> <p>Mike said that the campaign has been very quiet. They have been focusing on building alliances and are planning a day of action in October on inequalities along with TUs, Black Lives matter and other orgs.</p>	<p><b>Jenny</b> to forward link. ( included)</p> <p><b>Great idea</b> that other areas might like to pick up !</p>
<p><b>Upcoming Mtgs</b></p> <p><b>Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Aug 4-5.30</b> Reclaim Social Care Public Mtg. on WHY CARE ?</p> <p><b>Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Sept.</b> 10.30-1pm KONP AGM</p> <p><b>Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b> HCT AGM</p> <p><b>Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Oct.</b> KONP /SHA campaign for Social Care, Support &amp; Independent Living ( NaCSILS) Launch</p>	<p>RSC hoping contributions from disabled people will shed light on why they are pressing for a National Care, Support &amp; Independent Living Service not just a Care Service and why this needs to be separate from the NHS. Zoom link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5651080054?pwd=akVORHRkUU9nOHE0NDZjcTRneFo2Zz09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5651080054?pwd=akVORHRkUU9nOHE0NDZjcTRneFo2Zz09</a></p> <p>AGM business will be short to allow us to hear about and learn from key struggles./ campaigns by KONP activists in other areas. Then Richard Horton editor of The Lancet and vocal critic of the Government's response to the pandemic will address the meeting.</p> <p>Details to be confirmed</p> <p>Details tbc.</p>	

**NEXT MEETING OF YORKS HEALTH CAMPAIGNS TOGETHER: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. 4pm – 5.30**

John P will set up Zoom and G circulate info and reminder nearer the time