

This will be a historic day! when everyone who cares about patient safety, improving the life-chances of the population, and ensuring we have a free, publicly-owned NHS in the future, will descend on the Tory party government - to stop the devastating cuts and sell-off of our NHS.

It will be **a day for all the family**, we'll have things for kids to do, as well as a march and rally for all.

We just need you to commit to coming. Unite will lay on transport - to get you to and from Manchester, from locations across the country. You need to let us know you are coming - so we can book your place, then turn up, and do something amazing to help the NHS.

When we are sick, we need the NHS; now the NHS is sick, it needs you - be there.

**SAVE
OUR
NHS**

Unite In Health Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2013



Unite in Health is the newsletter for all Unite members who work in the NHS and associated services. It's available on-line for members, with hard copies available from your region. We will update you on major developments in health and Unite. www.unitetheunion.org/health

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Regulars: Member get Member reward, reps' training, update your details

5 July - the NHS at 65

For 65 years the NHS has served us, without worry about having to pay for treatment. The NHS was the greatest creation of the '45 Labour Government. It's touched all of our lives in many ways. It is the place where you give the best part of your lives, to serve those in need of your expertise.



Unite will celebrate the NHS, and celebrate you! on its 65th birthday - 5 July 2013.

Ask your local rep about what will happen at your hospital on 5 July, and involve colleagues in marking this special day.

We are also going to highlight the real threat to the NHS on 5 July - we don't want this to be the last birthday of the NHS. We'll be telling this government - that whilst we love the NHS, we need them to keep their hands off it. It must not be cut, it must not be privatised. You're the ones who'll witness the impact this is having, all of us are seeing the effect it is having on our families and communities

Thank you for all you do

News: CRB checks are now DBS checks

Jane Beach, Professional Officer, has written a new briefing sheet - the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), have merged, to become the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). CRB checks are therefore now called DBS checks. There are different rules for obtaining a criminal record check in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

How will this affect you? - check our healthsector website for the briefing sheet, or read the full report here: <https://www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check/overview>.

Contact Unite >

Are your membership details up to date?

We need all members to keep their membership records up to date. You can do this yourself. From the front page of the Unite website, Click on MEMBER LOGIN to check that your personal details, employer and workplace details, and your email and mobile numbers are correct. Follow us:

Member Login >



www.twitter.com/UniteInHealth



www.facebook.com/UniteInHealth

Will we still have an NHS in 2015?

That's when we'll have the next general election, but what if the NHS has collapsed by then? Could UK infant mortality double in 2 years? Unite Professional Officer, Jane Beach, has returned from investigating the health system in Greece - with shocking examples of how healthcare could fail in the UK, if current policies continue.

Jane tells us 'the Greek system, which was similar to ours 2 years ago, has deteriorated rapidly as a result of cuts in funding, increased privatisation, job losses, and changes to staff terms and conditions, (reduction in pay and increase in hours). The increase in unemployment has led to more people driven towards the public health system, and an increase in those who are no longer entitled to services free at the point of delivery.'

Children and women at risk

'We heard accounts of parents demonstrating outside the Greek Parliament, pleading for funding for chemotherapy for their children. We witnessed a man protesting about the fact that the hospital refused to treat him, because he could not afford their new access charges. We also heard about cases where newly born babies are kept separate from their mother until hospital bills are paid - resulting in many women having no option but to risk home birth - being unable to pay for medical assistance. Infant mortality has doubled in the last 2 years, as has the number of deaths of women in childbirth.'

Infections, mortality rates and suicides increase

'Greek public hospitals are extremely short of experienced and specialist staff, medicines, and essential supplies like dressings and gloves. People with long-term conditions suffer complications, hospital-acquired infections and mortality rates are increasing. Public health data show cases of malaria and trends in HIV infection are worsening, as a result of dismantling public preventative programmes. Abortions are increasing, due to lack of reproductive and sexual health services. The Greek fire service report that the main reason for call-out is suicide, particularly in men aged 40 - 50.'

'As a result of public service funding cuts, hospitals are merging, or closing altogether. We were told this means the ambulance service makes much longer journeys to get people to hospital. This directly impacts on their response time to reach people in need.' **Does this sound familiar?**

Branch Chairs, Secretaries, Treasurers - please consider donating funds towards the medical aid programme in Greece - contact jane.beach@unitetheunion.org for further info, show solidarity, and join the fight to save our NHS. We cannot be complacent - our own NHS could go the same way.

These potential risks to the NHS are more immediate in England, with the rapidly changing landscape after the Health and Social Care Act. However, in the rest of the UK, Scotland - debating independence from Westminster, together with Wales and Northern Ireland, may not be far behind.

The Cuts affect health services across the whole of the UK.

**Unite fights with you to resist attacks
on your terms & Conditions**

Dates for your diary 2013

11 June - health sector member recruitment day

5th/6th July - 65th birthday of our NHS - save the day!

29th September - 2nd October Join our March to the Tory Party Conference! - **Save Our NHS**

www.unitetheunion.org/health



Healthcare workers cheapened

Down-grading jobs and cutting services mean that organisations are cheaper and more attractive to sell to private companies. European competition laws could push the doors open even further, for American conglomerates to buy the most profit-making, high-turnover, low-risk parts of the service. Without any revenue or returned investment coming back into the NHS, the most complex services could disappear in some areas, or individuals could have to pay.

Your health for sale

Organisations not able to balance their books are merging with others, or becoming partners with private companies, like SERCO. There are 32 health employers on the financial risk list in England – identified as trying to fulfil the requirement to become a Foundation Trust.



Poorest paying most for healthcare now?

If GPs get paid according to the age of their patients, it could cause further deterioration of services:

Better-off people live longer, and so attract higher rates of pay for GPs – so the 'worried well' get treated first.

The poorest families don't tend to register with a GP, yet may need more health care. Emergency, hospital and mental health services for children, teens, adults, and older adults are stretched further, waiting lists grow longer, some patients may even be refused treatment. GPs may not register older patients, nor those with long-term conditions. Drug and alcohol services may be cut completely in the areas that need them most. A Greek health system coming our way?

From 1st April, NHS Employers in England have stepped up cuts to your terms and conditions, with no guarantees that members in the devolved administrations will be safe.

Frank Keogh, Chair of the Health Sector National Industrial Committee (NISC), says: *'Agenda for Change is an equality-proofed set of terms & conditions and pay system, that has delivered for the National Health Service, its patients, and its staff. Attempts to undermine the national agreement and national bargaining unit, is a direct attack upon the "N" in the NHS. Unite will continue to stand up with its members employed in the NHS - and that will mean defending Agenda for Change'*

Members in the **devolved administrations** may have slightly longer - to make sure they are organised and ready to counter attacks on their own terms and conditions, should these go ahead in England, however, there are no guarantees

Health and Social Care Act – how did the changes affect you on 1 April?

Barrie Brown, National Officer tells us: on 1st April 44,000 staff in England transferred to the 400 new organisations which replaced the 175 NHS organisations which were abolished by the Act on 31st March. 3,000 public health staff transferred to 152 local authorities. The establishment of the new NHS structure for England - the biggest change in the NHS since its creation in 1948 - means that all services in the NHS will be open to competition as required by the Act which will lead to large scale privatisation and fragmentation of the health service. The Unite health sector website has materials for our campaign against the privatisation of the NHS.

Mileage – changes coming in on 1st July 2013

Barrie Brown gives us the latest: on 1st July 2013 the new NHS mileage allowance scheme will be implemented. There will be a revised section 17 and annex L in the NHS terms and conditions handbook. The new scheme is the result of a review of the mileage allowance provisions which submitted proposals for a new scheme to the NHS staff council in July 2010 which were subsequently accepted. Details of the new scheme, which removes the regular user and standard rate allowances with a new single mileage rate and a replacement for the public transport rate, will be available on the Unite website when the new section 17 and annex L are published.

New guidelines on safeguarding –

Unite Health Sector Professional Officer, Ros Godson, sums up:

The Department of Health (England) has published a revised document **'Working Together to Safeguard Children'**; a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children'. Following much criticism of staff (especially social workers) - being too concerned with form-filling and ticking boxes, and so losing sight of the needs of children.

This guidance aims to help professionals, (teachers, police, and staff in ambulance, healthcare, prison, probation, housing, youth offending, armed services, churches, sports clubs, voluntary groups and charities), to understand what they need to do to protect children - from neglect and maltreatment. This may arise from a family's circumstances, and may not be their fault. The emphasis is that everyone who comes into contact with children has their part to play. Last year, over 600,000 children were referred to local authority children's services by concerned individuals. Children have said that they need adults to notice when things are troubling them, and then they need understanding and action to help put things right. Read the full guidance on www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/statutory/g00213160/working-together-to-safeguard-children Check for updates and news on www.unitetheunion.org/cphva



Introduce a new member to Unite

and get £25 (in vouchers)



Get your colleagues and friends to join Unite too – we are stronger with more members. Unite is the union that stands up to fight with you and your colleagues. See the Unite website for more detail about how you can get **£25 vouchers** for introducing your colleagues to Unite:

www.unitetheunion.org/introduce

Training for Reps and members:

NEW!

Unite in Health Thinking Thursday - #UiHTT – **online updates and training for all Unite health sector members** – check regularly for new information and development modules – www.unitetheunion.org/uihtt



'New Times in the NHS' regional courses in October 2013 - for all Unite Health Sector Reps - Have you been yet?

this course assists reps in dealing with changes in the NHS, and how to campaign. All reps, new or experienced, should attend. Check www.unitetheunion.org/newtimesinthenhs for a course in your region. All our Workplace, Health & Safety, and Union Learning Representatives are entitled to paid time off to attend Unite reps' training. Speak to your Regional Officer or local Unite admin team to book your place now.

National Demonstration for the NHS - 29 September 2013, Manchester - save the day!

The NHS is under such serious threat, we're calling on all Unite members to commit now - to attend the biggest demonstration against cuts and the privatisation of the NHS. Unite has called this national demonstration, supported by other unions, campaign groups, and the public. This will be the biggest demonstration in the history of the NHS - we need you, your family, colleagues, friends, and anyone you meet between now and September, to come to Manchester, and fight for the future of the NHS.

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