Composite B - NHS

Comprising motion M1 and amendment, M2 and M3.

This conference notes recent figures showing waiting times for NHS operations have returned to the high levels of 2007.

It further notes that, despite widespread campaigning by trade unions, Labour councils, and Labour Party members, against the development of Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) in the NHS, most of the plans have continued to be implemented. What is more, the development of Accountable Care Organisations or Accountable Care Systems (ACO or ACS) based on a private sector American model, is also progressing.

In order to understand and, if necessary, to resist these models, the community, councillors and trade union members need education in the processes taking place, the pitfalls being identified, and to develop focused alternatives that can be pursued.

Conference recognises that the Government’s ‘Five Year Forward View’ plan mandates the introduction of Accountable Care Systems (ACS) now rebranded ‘Integrated Care Systems’ (ICS) based on the USA’s Medicare/Medicaid model providing “managed care” to the elderly and people without health insurance and allowing insurance companies to price-limit the care clinicians can offer. They are based on ‘capitated budgets’ with fixed payments covering the whole population regardless of actual healthcare needs increasing pressures to restrict access to elective care and accelerating the development of a two tier health system where those that can afford it go private and the rest are left with limited care.

This is being introduced without legislation, Parliamentary or public debate, or robust evidence that it will improve services or deliver savings.

To this end conference welcomes;

* the publication of a new edition of ‘In Place of Austerity’, the programme of the People’s Assembly and the decision of the TUCJCC to circulate it to all trades councils. Conference reaffirms that trades councils welcome representatives of the People’s Assembly to our meetings, and urges all trades councils to organise public education sessions on austerity, including the PA comprehensive analysis and proposals in its programme.
* the publication of the very informative Health Campaigns Together newspaper, and encourages all trades councils to subscribe to this and affiliate to the organisation.
* the 30th June national demonstration to defend and fund our NHS and encourages all trades councils to support and take part.

ACSs/ICs increase the risk of privatisation, replacing acute and community hospital services with privatised services, replacing A&E departments with privatised urgent care centres, replacing traditional family doctors by huge commercial practices, integrated healthcare with privatised means tested social care, and the use of personal care budgets. It includes the privatisation of pathology, pharmacy and radiology; and the use of private companies to set up governance structures and advise on contracts.

An entire area’s NHS and social care could be covered by one long term privately held single contract posing a direct threat to public services and to staff terms and conditions.

Conference calls on the TUC to:

* Refuse to cooperate with plans to develop ACOs/ICSs.
* Work with affiliates to educate members on the track record of ACO/ICS, and the circumstances of its introduction in England;
* Remind MPs and Councillors of Labour party policy, adopted unanimously at its 2017 Conference, to oppose ACS and STPs, and to cooperate with unions and NHS campaigns to oppose them.
* Support the campaigning activity of Keep Our NHS Public, Defend our NHS, 999 Call for the NHS and Health Campaigns Together.
* Support the wider defence and reinstatement of the NHS as a health service which is
* universal, comprehensive, publicly provided, publicly accountable, publicly run
* and adequately funded through general taxation, free at the point of delivery, with decisions on treatment taken by NHS clinical staff on the basis of clinical need.
* This conference therefore calls on Public Services Committees to work with and coordinate trade unions, trades councils, NHS campaign groups and Labour councils/councillors in informing and educating members, developing activity to inform the public and devising a strategy/programme to resist developments the movement feels will undermine or harm the NHS. At the heart of such organisations should be STP area base meetings/conferences, leading to the establishment of campaign committees, which can feed back into Public Services Committees.
* Although it seems that currently NHS England has decided not to authorise contracts based on capitated whole population annual payments; some Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) are already setting up “informal” ACS/ICS.

We call upon this conference to oppose all forms of privatisation, cutbacks, and underfunding, of the National Health Service (NHS).

We call on the TUC to mobilise all sections of the trade union and labour movements, to bring all parts of the NHS under public control and accountability, and to demand more funding for the NHS.

To be moved by Cheshire CATUC

Seconded by West Yorkshire CATUC

Preference in debate to Derbyshire CATUC