

Branch Meeting
Thursday
26th
June
6.30 p.m.

STUC
333 Woodlands Road
Glasgow
G3 6NG



Donald Sime
chairing last month's
Branch meeting

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- **Gender Pay Gap Widens & Narrows**
- **Agenda for Change Vote**
- **Foundation Trusts to Defy Unions**
- **NHS Accident Levels Soar**

End NHS Points Scoring MSPs Told

MSPs of all parties have been challenged to replace political point scoring with balanced, informed discussion by the Scottish NHS Confederation. Director Hilary Robertson said "There were many excellent debates about health in the Scottish Parliament in its first term, but equally the NHS was too often used as a political football on all sides of the chamber." The Confederation has set out five challenges in a pamphlet sent to all MSPs:

- make health improvement a top

priority;

- avoid unnecessary restructuring;
- increase local freedoms and limit national targets;
- support and invest in the whole system and all NHS staff and
- be honest about the realities facing the NHS.

Malcolm Chisholm has been re-appointed as Minister of Health in the Scottish Executive. Tom McCabe, MSP for Hamilton South, has been appointed as his depute.

Union Anger Rises Over Policy Refusals

Amicus MSF is becoming increasingly concerned over the refusal by many of Scotland's NHS employers to implement policy guidelines agreed at national level, especially as Minister of Health Malcolm Chisholm has stated publicly that these guidelines are the minimum conditions that staff have a right to expect. Regional Officer Michael Fuller has written to Mr Chisholm asking for an early meeting with senior amicus NHS reps to express these concerns in

person and elaborate on what is needed for the NHS in Scotland to abide by the public pledges given by the Minister at the Partnership Conferences in 2002 and 2003.

The union is particularly concerned at the failure to allocate resources to implement policies which will have a significant impact on the working lives of NHS staff (e.g. the family friendly policies) and believes that the failure poses a serious and substantial threat to partnership working.

Contacts



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Gender Pay Gap Widens & Narrows!

The latest New Earnings Survey reveals that in the last 5 years the percentage gap between men and women's hourly earnings has narrowed for 16-25 year olds and 46-65 year olds, but widened for 26-45 year olds.

Women upto the age of 35 earn, on average, over 90% of men's earnings. However, this falls to 75% for those in the 46-55 age range with a small increase to 80% for the 56-65 year olds.

amicusMSF Vote Backs Agenda for Change Pilots

Amicus MSF members have voted by 79% to 21% to in favour of proceeding with the Agenda for Change proposals. In common with the Transport and General Workers Union and UNISON, the amicus vote was to approve only the first stage of the proposals i.e. the implementation in 12 pilot sites in England. Following the completion of the pilots, there will be a second ballot in the autumn of next year. Amicus head of health Roger Spiller said "This demonstrates most people recognise early implementers are of key significance. We have taken the two stage approach because the Department of Health needs to resolve a lot of issues over the next 12 months."

Foundation Trust Applicants to Defy Union Votes

NHS Trusts in England which have applied for foundation status have been ordered to proceed with implementing the Agenda for Change proposals from October this year, despite the fact that the unions have only approved the implementation at 12 pilot sites. A Department of Health spokesperson said that the 29 foundation trust applicants would begin implementation in October, aiming to be up and running by April of next year. Union activists are interpreting the move as indicating the continued contempt with which the (English) Department of Health views the unions.

NHS Accident Levels Soar

The National Audit Office (NAO) has reported a sharp increase in reported accidents in the NHS. The increase follows two successive years of decline. The NAO report concludes that the key factors contributing to the increase in accidents are increased workloads, staff shortages and poor skill mix. The report also makes the link between the environment in which staff work and the care given to patients. Stress levels in NHS staff were upto twice as likely to be above the level for psychological distress as outwith the NHS.

Branch Meeting Thursday 26th June

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and arising.
3. Correspondence.
4. Reports: Annual Conference;
Rules Conference;
Others.
5. Motions: Scottish Conference;
Others
6. A.O.C.B.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Tuesday 26th August at 6.30 p.m. All meetings are held in the Scottish Trade Union Congress, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6NG. (Tea, coffee & sandwiches 6.15 p.m.)

