

Branch Meeting

**Thursday
29th
June
6.30 p.m.**

STUC
333 Woodlands Road
Glasgow
G3 6NG



Gail Cartmail, the union's lead officer for the NHS, has been promoted to assistant general secretary of Amicus

Page 2

- **NHS agency bills criticised**
- **Acting up allowance agreed**
- **Amicus NHS conference report**
- **Branch website**

NHS superannuation funding shock

It can now be revealed that senior civil servants in the Department of Health (DOH) failed to allow for the knock on costs of Agenda for Change to the NHS Pension Scheme in their calculations with the Treasury. It appears that the DOH did not allow sufficient financial flexibility for staff who as a result of A4C are now on annual increments or who gained more from A4C/Doctors etc pay award than the DOH anticipated. The DOH, having previously

claimed that A4C was fully funded, now claim they are unable to add any extra funds to cover this impact on NHS Pensions.

The solution being favoured by the DOH, is to reduce the benefits of the scheme or ask staff to pay more for the same benefits or a combination of both. In other words all NHS staff are being asked to pay for the financial incompetence of senior civil servants at the Department of Health.

Report by David Houlston

Scottish blood products lab under threat

The Protein Fractionation Centre (PFC), a part of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS), which has manufactured blood products for the NHS since 1975 is to close, if it cannot be sold to a suitable commercial buyer. Manufacturing at the PFC was suspended in January following an inspection by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) which identified weaknesses in quality assurance processes.

Andy Kerr, Minister of Health, said "Even with substantial extra

investment of around £20 million to meet modern regulatory standards, it is unlikely that such a small-scale operation could be economic in the long term.

I would hope we could find a buyer who could retain as many of the 145 jobs as possible. If a buyer cannot be found by SNBTS, we will aim to ensure that staff are redeployed elsewhere in the NHS in Scotland. I fully appreciate the uncertainty and anxiety this decision will create - I have already met with Amicus and will continue to engage with them throughout this process."

Contacts

Chair	Donald Sime	0141 201 4610
Secretary	Maureen Jenkins	0141 201 3044
Treasurer	Richard Shaw	0141 201 0412
Vice-chair	Helen McFarlane	0773 310 2209
Safety Officer	Derek Anstee	0141 211 2128
Women's Officer	Helen McFarlane	0773 310 2209
Education Officer	Ian Forbes	0141 211 4523
Newsletter Editor	James Ito	0141 201 0798
Branch website	www.amicusglasgowhealth.org	



NHS Scotland agency bills criticised

Scottish mainland Health Boards have come under fire for their use of high cost agency staff. Worst offenders were NHS Lothian (£10.7 million), Argyll and Clyde (£8.5 million) and Greater Glasgow (£7.8 million). In a spectacular example of profligacy, NHS Lothian paid £1252 for one nurse to cover one public holiday shift, making NHS Greater Glasgow's highest nurse payment of £300 for a single shift seem positively reasonable. In Dumfries and Galloway a GP was paid £6,517 for out of hours cover over Christmas. Andy Kerr, health minister, said "When staff are off sick, or on unexpected leave, we must make sure that the patients come first and that the rest of the care team are not put under more pressure - the use of agency staff enables us to do that." He also pointed out that the agency nurse bill in Scotland had fallen by £3.3 million in the last year.

Allowance for unplanned acting up

The Scottish Terms and Conditions Committee has reached agreement on the payment of an acting up allowance where it has been necessary to provide short term cover for an unplanned absence. The Agenda for Change terms and conditions for acting up periods of 1 month or more are unaffected. A copy of the agreement can be downloaded from the Branch website.

Amicus NHS conference Report by: Donald Sime

It is now the industrial policy of Amicus to secure a 35 hour week, 12 days public holidays and an entitlement to 4 weeks paid parental leave across the United Kingdom. This follows the adoption in Scarborough this month by the Amicus NHS Sector Conference of a motion moved by Ian Forbes on behalf of Scotland. Conference also selected for the 2007 Policy Conference a Scottish motion on the development of decision making structures to reflect the devolution settlement

Branch members Helen McFarlane and Donald Sime were elected by Conference to serve on the Union's NHS National Sector Committee. Annie Hair, Sharon Duncan, Gordon Stephen and Ray Stewart were other Scottish delegates elected to the National Committee.

Branch Newsletter

As is traditional, the Branch Newsletter takes a break and there will not be a Newsletter published in July. However, the Branch website will be updated over the holiday period. If you wish notification of updates send an email with the subject line subscribe to: editor@amicusglasgowhealth.org

Branch Meeting Thursday 29th June

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and arising.
3. Correspondence.
4. Reports.
5. Motions.
6. A.O.C.B.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Tuesday 29th August 2006 at 6.30 p.m. All meetings are held in the Scottish Trade Union Congress, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6NG. (Tea, coffee & biscuits 6.15 p.m.)

