



Minutes of Keep Our NHS Public Steering Committee meeting, Wednesday 7 March 2007

DECISIONS

- (a) PE to approach BMJ about report/advert.
- (b) AN – updated leaflet
- (c) PE to circulate minutes and agendas to local groups
- (d) DG to typeset and circulate AN's answers to the Big Ask.
- (e) GL to investigate the cost of an ad in the local Leicester press and convey this to the officers.
- (f) PE to draw up proposals for amendments to the constitution to ensure the involvement of the local groups and send to Steering Committee.
- (g) PE to draft a new poster aimed at unifying KONP and local cuts campaigns groups.
- (h) PE to contact the regions conveying the successful challenge on ICATS in the North West.
- (i) AN and PE to draw up notes for a new publication on the “personal budget” proposal.
- (j) DG to draft letter to Brendan Barber re proposal for a national demonstration in London circa 14th July
- (k) DG and PE to arrange distribution to MPs of Patchwork Privatisation
- (l) KONP statement (amended) to be circulated to Steering Committee for comments; JLip and PD to review and forward for approval by the officers; DG to typeset and prepare for dispatch (with (k) above and elsewhere as decided)

1. **Attendance**

Present:

Wendy Savage (WS), Peter Fisher (PF), Chris Burns-Cox (CBC), John Lipetz (JLip), Paul Evans (PE), Geoffrey Lewis (GL), Peter Draper (PD), Dot Gibson (DG), Alex Nunns (AN), Dave Eastham (DE), Guy Collis (GC)

Apologies:

John Lister (JL), Barrie Brown (BB), Jacky Davis (JD)

2. **Minutes of 7th February**

Agreed as a correct record, with an amendment that it was “the” Parliamentary Liaison Group and not “a”.

3. **Matters arising**

- i. PE and JD had discussed possibility of BMJ reporting/advertising. PE to make an

approach on behalf of KONP.

ii. AN reported that basic KONP leaflet being updated and reprinted.

iii. PE to circulate minutes and agendas of Steering Committee to local KONP groups.

iv. AN had drawn up answers to “Big Ask” questionnaire issued by the Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark PCTs. However, new questionnaire was now on the PCTs' website. DG to circulate answers.

v. 147 letters had been sent to patient disease organisation.

vi. PF proposed that, since the cost of a KONP advert in a national paper would be very high, we should consider putting adverts in regional newspapers. GL to investigate cost of ad in local Leicester press and convey this to the officers.

vii. PE to draw up proposals for amendments to constitution to ensure involvement of local KONP groups in decision making. To be sent to local groups once agreed by Steering Committee, in advance of discussion at AGM.

4. **Officers' Reports**

PE and AN reported:

i. Local KONP (30+), although very active, are quite small, whereas local cuts campaigns tend to be much bigger but not committed to anti-privatisation. PE to draft new poster aimed at unifying KONP and these cuts campaigns.

ii. In the North West three proposals for ICATS were challenged, and one had been stopped by the actions of medical staff. PE proposed that, using this example, we contact staff in other regions to encourage actions along the same lines. Committee agreed. GL - ICATS raise issue of management interposing in professional referrals which is also unacceptable.

iii. Proposals for health vouchers (personal budgets) for individuals to use for payment of their health care had been introduced by Charles Clarke in his new “creative thinking” website. GC - Tony Blair expected to deliver speech on public services 27/3. Possible that he would again bring up the “personal budget” proposal. AN and PE proposed that KONP produces a pamphlet taking the proposal to its logical conclusion – paying for health care. Agreed that they would draw up notes for such a publication, which could be finalised in the event that Tony Blair does make this proposal.

[WS had to leave and PF took over the chair.]

5. **3rd March NHS Together Day of Action and future events**

GC - reports still coming in, but it seemed that there were successful events in the regions, which were fairly well covered by the local press, although there was no national coverage. DG reported on resolution from NPC Greater London Region calling for national march and proposed that KONP should now call a national march in central London. GC confirmed that Unison health committee had called for this but it would be the union's National Executive which would make the decision. KONP to send letter to Brendan Barber, general secretary of TUC (DG to draft) saying that KONP wishes to have a national demonstration in London,

asking whether TUC would give active support and suggesting Saturday 14th July or another date close to that. The next Steering Committee would then decide.

6. **Patchwork Privatisation sales and distribution**

Amicus and Unison had made large bulk orders; the pamphlet was being reprinted. DG and PE to arrange distribution to Mps.

7. **Response to IPPR by David Burns and Sally Ruane**

Sally Ruane had now sent the final text with cover; AN distributing it with a press release. Copies to be available for general circulation. Committee expressed thanks to David and Sally.

8. **KONP Statement**

JLip and PD had drafted statement incorporating suggestions from PF, Stuart Jeffrey and Martin Rathfelder, which now had the added purpose of being sent particularly to back-bench Labour MPs inviting them to support. Statement agreed in principle with deletion of final paragraph. To be emailed to steering committee for comments. JLip and PD to review and forward for approval by officers. DG to prepare for dispatch.

9. **Finance**

Committee received financial statement with projected income and expenditure. Financial situation has improved due mainly to PE's efforts and donations brought to meeting by PF.

10. **Any Other Business**

PD proposed mini-project - "Public financial accountability in the new NHS and DoH" (circulated 6/3). He reported that Sue Secher (N. London activist and researcher) had volunteered to help AN and PD with this brief project aimed at "arming the troops" with basic and hard financial facts.

Next meeting: 2.00 p.m. Wednesday 4 April 2007
Committee Room 1.1, Unison HQ Mabledon Place