



Draft minutes of KONP Steering Committee, Wednesday 4 July 2007

1. Attendance

Present:

Wendy Savage (WS) (chair), Peter Draper (PD), John Lister (JL), John Lipetz (JLip), Paul Evans (PE), Alex Nunns (AN), Geoffrey Lewis (GL), Barrie Brown (BB), Chris Burns-Cox (CBC)

Apologies:

Harry Keen (HK), Dot Gibson (DG)

2. Minutes of 6 June

Agreed as correct record.

3. Matters arising

i. 3iii of 6 June minutes in progress, i.e. Unite (Amicus) design for cover for "Patchwork Privatisation", NUJ campaign donation.

ii. 4vi of 6 June minutes in progress, i.e. claiming our successes on website.

iii. 4vii of 6 June minutes - Michael Moore film "Sicko".

It was agreed to leaflet public at cinemas with new version of "Choose NHS" postcard suited to the film. JL and PE to design new version. JLip suggested asking unions to finance this new handout.

Note: The Independent of 5 July reported that distribution of film in UK not yet agreed. <http://news.independent.co.uk/people/pandora/article2737099.ece>.

4. Media strategy

PD circulated media strategy document. Proposed having living media strategy for steering committee. JL offered to circulate article of his that has appeared in NHS Executive magazine.

5. Reports

PE summarised KONP's current activities as working in 3 ways:

i. By encouraging and supporting local groups with a monthly campaign newsletter, campaign advice, campaign materials and health policy information.

ii. Through Parliament. The current strategy is as follows:

1) to circulate information updates to all MPs

2) to target MPs who support us or have a specific interest in health

3) To review lobbying techniques to stop using those which are ineffective in

favour of developing better approaches e.g. getting supporters to visit MPs in their own constituency which MPs say is the best way to influence them or by getting MPs to write to other MPs on our behalf, as again this is thought to be a better way of assuring their attention. It would be helpful to form a small key group to influence other MPs, possibly involving Dr Ian Gibson and Norman Lamb. Website is invaluable source of relevant information.

iii. Through the media e.g. AN distributed copy of today's press release following Alan Johnson's speech - Brown's dramatic health policy: "no change".

Information officer:

iv. Bristol ISTC appeal awaiting judgment.

v. Advert in Westmoreland Gazette (instead of Leicester) re cuts in Kendal, closure of CCU and cut back in surgery – cost confirmed as £186 small, £326 large. It was agreed to opt for large. Advert to include recruitment wording inviting £10 membership fee or donation.

vi. KONP to focus on specific areas where there are major problems eg Hinchingsbrooke.

6. **5 July activities and meeting**

Speakers arranged will be Jacky Davis, John Lister and Frank Dobson each speaking for about 10 minutes. Agreed that meeting should be chaired in such a way that non-relevant interventions would not be taken.

7. **AGM and constitution**

JLip presented new version of constitution. Amended according to suggestions – JLip to circulate and forward agreed final version to DG.

8. **National demo**

Unison had confirmed October 13 as date of demo, venue Finsbury Park. However, this has now been changed to 3 November, venue details to follow.

9. **Finance**

Regular donations are down. An appeal to KONP members did not bring good response. Fundraising options narrow. The Unite union has given their annual affiliation and donation, plus they are buying a run of "Patchwork Privatisation" (see 3i above). PE has made strenuous fundraising efforts and secured some pledges from union branches. NHSCA has given further sizeable donation. We are awaiting money from NUJ. PE has committed a lot of time to KONP fundraising over the last month. Not sustainable every month.

10. **Any other business**

i. Re 'choice' policy, Alex Scott-Samuel has suggested encouraging patients to choose NHS provision rather than private. HK approved but cautioned we must not recommend anything other than best possible quality of service for patient i.e. the choice must not be political. New "Choose NHS" information should be made available to public especially in GP surgeries for patient and doctor to discuss. See 3iii above for reference to updated postcard.

ii. Subject of an updated leaflet, as discussed in previous meetings, was raised.

WS argued that this is necessary for recruiting supporters. However, PE did not see it as being currently affordable.

Next meeting: 16 August, 2pm. Email dot.gibson@virgin.net for venue details