

# Unite the Union

## Nottinghamshire Health Branch

### Spring 2018



#### Welcome to your Unite the Union Newsletter

Unite the Union aims to build a fuller and more influential workplace organisation, including recruiting and training more Unite Reps within Unite's Nottinghamshire Health Branch.

#### Nottinghamshire being used by government for testing creeping privatisation plans

A well-attended public meeting organised by **Unite Nottinghamshire Health Branch** was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018, with over 100 members of the public and Unite members in attendance.

Government's proposals to test new, and possibly illegal, healthcare **privatisation plans in Nottinghamshire** were laid bare. Speaking to a capacity and determined audience, **Dr Colin Hutchinson** explained the

new management Accountable Care Organisations (ACO), for contracting out NHS and social care delivery.

ACOs have evolved from Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) whose aim is to integrate health and social service delivery in a single package. Alarming, commercial organisations will be allowed to tender to become ACOs.

**ACOs will have powers to asset strip NHS property and resources to achieve profits to service shareholder demands.**

Several major companies including Capita and Centene have shown interest in tendering to become ACOs. Capita is the largest UK provider of private services to the public sector (after Carillion!) but their share value plummeted in early February amid fears that they might follow a similar fate to Carillion. Centene is a giant US corporation that has been hit by big fines in the USA for failing to provide adequate access to doctors to its insurance customers. It was also fined in Spain for breaching hospital health and safety regulations, putting employees at risk.

**Dr Hutchinson, Professor Stephen Hawking, Professor Allyson Pollock, Professor Sue Richards, and Dr Graham Winyard have collectively just been granted permission by The High Court to hold a Judicial Review** to challenge the legitimacy of Jeremy Hunt and NHS England's introduction of ACOs.

Your Branch will be organising future public meetings to defend the NHS and we hope to see you as part of the campaigning strategy.

Report: Dr Des Powe



**Dr Colin Hutchinson explains threats posed by privatisation**

#### **Victory! Chatsworth Ward (Mansfield Community Hospital) stays open.**

After 7 months of campaigning by staff, patients and supporters it has been announced that this ward is staying open. It will continue providing neuro-rehabilitation to patients in central Nottinghamshire. If there had been no fight back, the ward would have closed last November. Unite Nottinghamshire NHS Branch is proud to have supported this fantastic campaign.

**Read more in the next newsletter.**

Join online at [www.unitetheunion.org](http://www.unitetheunion.org)

## Save the NHS March, London 3rd February 2018

Report by Dr Jon Dale



The NHS Winter Crisis is now a year round crisis. It has brought staff to their knees while patients languish in overcrowded waiting rooms, hospital corridors and parked ambulances.

**Saturday 3rd February saw a day of national protest by health workers and NHS supporters demanding adequate funding and an end to privatisation.**

The London demonstration was organised at short notice by Health Campaigns Together (HCT) and the People's Assembly. Tens of thousands took part, including Unite Nottinghamshire Health branch members. **Meanwhile other Unite members and NHS campaigners took part in a local protest at the Brian Clough statue in Nottingham city centre** (Photo below).

Marchers in London heard Unite National Officer for Health Sarah Carpenter call for the immediate reintroduction of student bursaries. A message of support to the rally from General Secretary Len McCluskey was read out.

**Huge anger has built up after a decade of workers' shrinking living standards and Tory austerity. Unite Nottinghamshire Health branch calls for the trade unions to organise an urgent national demonstration to defend the NHS**



## Carillion: Lessons learned from NHS funding awarded to private companies?

Carillion went bankrupt in January 2018 with debts of £1.5 billion and an estimated £990 million hole in its pensions. Fortunately **Nottingham University Hospital** prematurely terminated its 5 year £250m Estates and Facilities (E&F) contract with Carillion half-way through, on April Fools Day, 2017. This turned out to be a wise move for the Trust and patients alike; **Carillion didn't deliver the expected level of service.**

Unite Nottinghamshire Health opposed the Carillion contract from the outset and highlighted unsafe working practices and staff shortages putting employees and patients at risk.

Carillion was a massive firm – some thought it too large to fail. Reasons for its demise are emerging but an important question that needs answering is why the government continued awarding more contracts to Carillion, and allowing hospital Trusts to do similar when there were signs of it failing?

### Carillion's toxic business ethos

Previously, we reported on Carillion's toxic business practices, and how it was found guilty of unlawfully 'blacklisting' workers, inducing long term hardship. In contrast, Carillion had a succession of directors whose priority was awarding themselves large salary packages and paying shareholder dividends in preference to securing the future of its employees.



E&F staff and Garry Guye (Unite Officer) handing in a petition at NUH HQ opposing E&F outsourcing, 2013

### Employee casualties

The true casualties in this sorry mess are the tens of thousands' of workers and subcontractors, who have lost their livelihoods, and Unite has been at the forefront in seeking government intervention and support in the immediate aftermath.

### What cost goodwill?

It's hard to quantify the cost of lost goodwill resulting from the TUPE transfer of E&F staff over to Carillion. Now NUH have taken its TUPE staff back in-house it is in a period of rebuilding staff relations.

**Lessons need to be learned from the NUH:Carillion contract.**

**Unite will continue campaigning to reverse privatisation in the NHS** including cancelling PFI contracts, to return outsourced workers back into the NHS, and to properly fund the NHS.

**Editorial: Dr Des Powe**

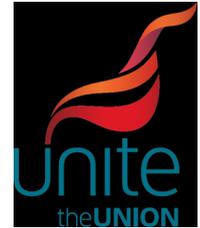
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## Benefits of being a Unite member

Unite provides an extensive support system & range of **membership benefits from our affiliated companies** including trade union and professional representation & protection at work; bargaining with your employer, as well as advice, information, guidance, support & information through the Care at Work scheme, training and education.

They also extend beyond the workplace including reduced rate holidays and airport parking.

*It's possible to 'earn' back your subscriptions from the savings you make in using our affiliated companies!*



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- **Unite Financial Services**
- **Unite Debt Advice** — free debt advisory service for Unite members

### Your local Unite reps

#### Nottingham University Hospital

**Andrew Clayworth** — Workplace Rep, Vice-Chair of Staff Side, NUH: [Andrew.Clayworth@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Andrew.Clayworth@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Neville Bernard** — Health and Safety Rep, NUH: [Neville.Bernard@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Neville.Bernard@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Fran Bond** — Workplace Rep, NUH: [Fran.Bond@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Fran.Bond@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Andrew Butters**—Workplace Rep, NUH: [Andrew.Butters@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Andrew.Butters@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Pamela Craft**—Workplace Rep, NUH: [Pamela.Craft@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Pamela.Craft@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Adam Dorsey** - Workplace Rep, NUH: [Adam.Dorsey@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Adam.Dorsey@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Andrew Harwood**—Health and Safety Rep, NUH: [Andrew.Harwood@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Andrew.Harwood@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Jennifer Simmons** —Workplace rep

**Daniel Tomlinson**—Workplace Rep, NUH: [Daniel.Tomlinson@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Daniel.Tomlinson@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Patrick Vesey**— Workplace Rep, NUH: [Patrick.Vesey@nuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Patrick.Vesey@nuh.nhs.uk)

**Janet Williams** - Equality rep

#### Sherwood Forest Kingsmill Hospital

**Jonathan Cox** — Workplace rep

**Elizabeth McCormack** — Workplace rep

#### Skanska Rashleigh

**Cleveland Anderson** - Workplace rep

**Jeff Hancock** - Workplace rep

#### NUH Estates

**Wayne Smith** —Workplace rep

**Michael Woodwood**— Health &Safety rep

#### Nottingham Citycare Partnership

**Lisa Beard** - Workplace rep

**Jennifer Maxwell** —Workplace rep

**Elizabeth Henson** —Workplace rep

#### Nottingham Healthcare NHS Trust

**Yusef Ali** — Workplace rep

**Alex Marks** — Workplace rep

**Sarah Stafford** — Workplace rep

**David Ward** —Workplace rep

**Lynne Worker** — Workplace rep

**Branch Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday each month (except August).**

6.00pm Unite Nottingham Office, Victoria Court, Kent Street NG1 3LZ

Contact Jon Dale to confirm: [ng32secretary@gmail.com](mailto:ng32secretary@gmail.com)

For information about Unite's

Legal & Affiliated services

**CONTACT:**

**Nikki MacDonald**

Legal & Affiliated Services Coordinator

[nikki.macdonald@unitetheunion.org](mailto:nikki.macdonald@unitetheunion.org)

Tel: 01332 548400



@UniteEastMids



### UNITE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Unite offers a range of membership categories

**ENHANCED:** This is the category that most people opt for because it includes valuable protection for you and your family

**Full time** £3.50 per week (£15.14 per month)

**Part time** £1.93 per week (£8.37 per month) Upto 21 hours/week

**Low pay** £2.25 per week (£9.74 per month)

**BASIC:** Entitles you to core union benefits. No additional protection

**Full time** £3.25 per week (£14.06 per month)

**Part time** £1.80 per week (£7.81 per month) Upto 21 hours/week

**Low pay** £2.00 per week (£8.66 per month)

**Special Rates for Apprentices & Low Paid staff** —visit the link below for more details, or speak to your Unite rep:

<http://www.unitetheunion.org/growing-our-union/joinunite/>

Contact Unite: Unite the Union, 3 Victoria Court, Kent Street, Nottingham NG1 3LZ Tel: 0115 9476784

Join online at [www.unitetheunion.org](http://www.unitetheunion.org)

## Report: Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association Annual Meeting, October 2017.

Unite Nottinghamshire Health Branch provided a bursary for me to attend the 2017 CPHVA (Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association) AGM and professional conference in Cardiff.

The opportunity to network with activists from across the UK was stimulating and energising. I met colleagues from the East Midlands and was able to share and compare experiences of what's happening in services local to me, and connect with a local network.

Of the motions debated, the CPHVA were implored to support "the development of educational resources to raise awareness of health literacy, to identify levels of health literacy...to check and improve client understanding". In England, 42% of working-age adults are unable to understand and make use of everyday health information; this rises to 61% when numeracy skills are also needed – think about instructions on taking medication.

I also attended a diverse range of practice based workshops including a session on end of life care for infants, children and young people: this gave me more confidence of how to respond to parents following such a tragic event.

The professional conference was themed "energise, educate, empower". We were challenged to be assertive as a professional group, to own our leadership role and act on it in regard to public health issues. I returned from conference being inspired: particularly by John Carnochan (OBE), who told us to **remember that people make the difference, we need to become activists**. He extolled 'the guy who stood in front of the tank in Tiananmen Square' and **urged us to stand up to wrong**. And after Nottinghamshire Health Branch's public meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> **that tank is privatisation**. I find attending Unite Branch meetings is supportive in this mission.

Report by Dr Jennifer Maxwell, Registered Nurse - SCPHN



### Friends and Bredrin (FAB)

Unite Notts Health Branch are proud to affiliate to **Friends And Bredrins (FAB)** : a Nottingham-based prostate cancer charity that support men with



prostate cancer, and their families. A crucial aim is raising awareness in the black community because they are twice as likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer, develop the disease at younger age, and typically experience a more aggressive type of cancer.

FAB host a monthly men's self-help support group that delivers help, advice, and education to maintain a healthy lifestyle and well-being.

FAB is run entirely by volunteers and is totally dependent on donations.

In 2017 FAB **purchased medical equipment** for the **Urology Department at NUH** with money raised by **FAB Team Riderzz** who took part in the **Great Notts Bike Event**.

### CYCLISTS WANTED!

**Why not join FAB for this year's 2018 ride (24 June) , or sponsor one of our FAB Riderzz, or make a donation?**

Please contact Roydon Allen (fabprostatecancer@hotmail.com) or Des Powe (des.powe@talktalk.net).



FAB Team Riderzz presenting a cheque to the Urology Department, City Hospital

Join online at [www.uniteunion.org](http://www.uniteunion.org)