

HEALTH CAMPAIGNS TOGETHER – CONFERENCE 17TH SEPTEMBER 2016

REPORT BACK ON WORKSHOPS

TOPIC 1: ANALYSIS

- As well as FOI requests, use local press both to get hold of STPs and to evoke public discussion. FOI requests should ask very specific questions e.g. no of doctors, hospital beds; phasing of plans and population issues. HCT could develop a guide to ROI requests on STPs
- Key feature of STPs (although not necessarily spelt out) is that they are finance driven and about cuts. Would information about spend per head of population be useful? And beds per 1000 people?
- Need to publish the actual amounts of money involved in each STP – money spent and money cut
- Need to raise social care as issue, particularly finance issues and means testing. Are local councils aware that costs could well be passed on to them?
- Series of public events – focus according to local needs. Leaflets, street stalls etc to inform the public about STPs
- May need to go to judicial review to find out what is in the STPs if not published
- May need to contact MPs, councillors, health bodies about the content of STPs; attend meeting including CCGs, Trusts, Healthwatch and Council scrutiny committees to raise questions; work with Patient Participation groups
- Privatisation a core element of STPs
- Work with health professionals including medical staff and trade unions on STPs
- Need to use NHSE's 'Engagement' document to raise issues in 'consultation' meetings – particularly the point about evidence

TOPIC 2: PUBLICITY/CAMPAIGNING

- Nothing known by local residents, nor by most local councillors/decision makers or health staff.
- There are excellent leaflets around for e.g. doctors surgeries, shops, our own members and local groups. Need to find way to share these.
- Arrange meetings with local councillors, MPs, radio stations
- Leaflet outside hospitals
- Involve Community Arts and faith groups – have to put issues boldly
- Cavalcades and rallies
- Lead consultation process
- Have simple clear message – focus on local cuts to explain STPs, and also social care cuts
- Need to link up and work across STP/footprint area

- Build links with local journalists, use local media to pressure local councils
- Attend council Health and Well-being Boards and council Scrutiny panels to raise awareness among councillors; ask questions and remind them they can ask questions – and say ‘NO’
- Try to develop some common messages that everyone can use e.g. Show us the evidence etc
- Develop short videos – nationally and, if possible, locally
- Leaflets, poster, stalls
- Visuals – e.g. photographs – to show locally
- HCT to develop national campaign to educate, agitate and put pressure on councils
- Might be useful for HCT to compile a directory of groups campaign on NHS in various regions

TOPIC 3: UNIONS AND WIDER ALLIANCES

- Lack of union involvement noted, particularly among health unions but Trades Councils can be used, and Unite Community – including for funding!
- Disseminate information to 38D
- Submit motions to TU branches and to annual conferences; work with regional TU organisations and cascade to local branches. Write to local union activists with information
- Engage with GPs. To get letters to GPs, mark ‘Private and Confidential’ to get around Practice Managers as gate-keepers
- Need to work with voluntary sector – focus on relevant issues e.g. the elderly, mental health, children’s health etc
- Need social media campaign – with national framing and national demands (e.g. reinstatement bill)
- Try to work with public governors of foundation trusts -they have some powers in vetoing large financial transactions or significant moves to increase private income)
- Where appropriate, consider using clinical senates to query safety of proposals once released

TOPIC 4: INVOLVING POLITICAL PARTIES

- Involve Greens!
- ... LibDems and others
- Restart the collaboration of HCT with John McDonnell (and Diane Abbott)
- Motions to Labour Party CLPs
- Need to work to pressure Tories in marginal seats – directly, and indirectly by building opposition to STPs

- Need to write to local councillors and to leaders of councils; and MPs. If they don't respond, publish in local press (and, maybe, if they do!)
- Resolutions for local political party members – need to ensure that information, resources and sample leaflets are available to spell out the details of STP
- Arrange visits and lobbies to MPs – local surgeries etc
- Provide regular briefing packs to local MPs and councillors so they are informed
- Pressurise chair of Health and Wellbeing Boards to call a public meeting and admit they are making the best of a bad job
- Press local MPs to ask questions in parliament (draft the question for them!)