



UNISON HEALTHCARE - BRANCH UPDATE

From: Christina McAnea, UNISON National Secretary - Health

BRIEFING HC-010-13

13 February 2013

Consultation on the Agenda for Change Proposals in England shows support for acceptance

Who needs to know?

- Health Branches in England
- Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland for information

Summary:

The consultation on the proposals to alter the Agenda for Change Agreement in England has ended. Based on this the Health SGE has agreed to accept the proposals

In full:

At the Health SGE meeting on 21 November 2012, the following was agreed:

"The SGE is looking to make an agreement to defend Agenda for Change (AfC) and considers these proposals are the best way to protect and maintain our national agreement for the future through negotiations and represents a better alternative than increased local and regional "breakaways".

The SGE agreed to consult branches on

- Will members accept the proposals rather than the likely alternatives?
- Has your employer already given a commitment to maintain AfC?
- If not, will they give a commitment based on these proposals?
- If rejected, what action members would be willing to take to defend local attacks on terms and conditions?

Regions in England have worked closely with branches to consult members through a wide variety of means, including workplace and branch meetings, ballots, online, and phone surveys. Although a large

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number of members were contacted, all regions reported a low response rate from members. Regions did report that the consultation process itself was helpful in raising awareness among members and recruiting new members and activists.

All regions accepted the proposals and an aggregate of the responses showed members voted 63% to accept and 37% to reject. Among those voting to reject there was some willingness to take industrial action but it was difficult to specify this.

The vast majority of Trust employers who responded to regions welcomed the proposal and indicated they would stick with the AfC agreement.

A report on the outcome of the consultation exercise was discussed at the meeting of the Health Service Group Executive on 6th February and on the basis of the results the Health SGE agreed to accept the proposals to alter the AfC agreement in England.

The next Staff Council meeting will be on 26th February where a staff side position will be determined.

A copy of the press release issued following the Health SGE meeting is attached for your information.

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