



A national programme of action to defeat the white paper and win a national contract

The importance of the debate on the White Paper Priority Motion cannot be underestimated. The Tories have declared war on state education and the teaching unions. They think they can privatise our education system and bully us out of the way, destroying national pay and conditions into the bargain.

We must signal our intent to stop them doing this by developing a plan of action capable of making the Tories think again.

The main motion calls for a timetable of strikes. This is strengthened by the LANAC amendment in the name of Jane Nellist and Rob Illingworth. The amendment sets out that there should be an "escalating timetable of strikes based on the model of the junior doctors' dispute".

Since 2011 the union has been dogged by a lack of strategy, with the leadership responding to a membership that they demobilised and demoralised by being "rabbits in headlights" and not organising members and arguing for a fight.

Since the General Election, the Union has taken the view that there is little we can do on the national stage to beat back the Tories. It is good that the events of the last week, with big rallies across the country against forced academies, have acted as a wake up call to the National Executive.

This surge in confidence of members helped by the election of Jeremy Corbyn (visibly seen in Jeremy's standing ovation at Conference yesterday) and of the junior doctors' dispute, has pushed even the NUT leadership to say that the days of the protest strike are dead, and that action needs to be more than one day.

It is absolutely vital that the lessons of the 2011 pensions dispute are learned. Over 2000 London teachers turned up after school on Wednesday 23 March to march through central London against the White Paper. This energy must not be squandered with members left dazed and demoralised by the lack of a clear plan, and clear demands.

Crucial in rebuilding our union will be involving members in our action rather than leaving everything to the central union structures. The first part of the priority motion sets out a political campaign against the White Paper. Such a political campaign is essential. Strikes will not win this dispute alone.

Such a political campaign will not, however, get off the ground by the central union producing green t-shirts and sending out press releases. It will be made or lost by its ability to build a campaign on a local level with an independent life.

NUT associations and divisions should set up city-wide, or borough-wide campaign groups, with other teacher unions, support staff unions, parents and students. Activists fighting the academisation and cuts at John Roan School in Greenwich have set a good model on how to do this.

Such local campaigns should build a local life, have public meetings, a mobilising committee, leaflet parents and students at the school gates, lobby MPs, run street stalls, stage protests and generally make a nuisance of themselves. One of the most impressive things about the junior doctors' dispute is that doctors have got together at a local level, without the direct instruction of the BMA, to organise vibrant activities that get their voice in the press and out to the public. This has been instrumental in convincing the general public of their cause, making their demands very clear and in popularising the idea that the dispute is about saving the NHS.

We urge delegates to allow debate on all the amendments to the priority motion and to **support the LANAC amendment in the name of Jane Nellist and Rob Illingworth** which commits the Union to a strategy that combines action in defence of our pay and conditions, alongside a mass campaign in defence of state education and community schooling.

Support the LANAC amendment in the name of Jane Nellist and Rob Illingworth