



Workers' Liberty

YAS UNITE Strike Bulletin 2 April

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Support the Action. Oppose YAS attacks on Services!

The governments promise to protect the NHS from frontline funding cuts has been shown to be the lie it always was.

While demand increases the ambulance service has been told to cut millions.

YAS management have chosen to implement the cuts by attacking front line workers, reducing the skill level on ambulances and the service to the public by targeting the lowest paid on A&E.

UNITE's strike today is taking a stand and highlighting the issue to the public. The strong vote shows that, with their trade union backing, them ambulance workers are prepared to take action.

YAS wants workers and the trade unions to quietly go along with anything they propose and the derecognition of UNITE is an attack on the right of any trade union to say NO and therefore an assault on all trade unionists.

But one day of action is unlikely to force any major changes to the implementation

of the workforce plan. Workers in YAS, who want to oppose these changes - and others to follow - need a longer term plan to rebuild trade union organisation at station level and force all the unions, including the majority union UNISON, to oppose cuts, rather than working with management to implement them. At station level workers whatever union they are in need to organise together to discuss future changes to meal breaks, agenda for change, lack of training, the use of band 3 roles and privatisation. And to raise joint grievances where problems arise, including with the implementation of the workforce plan.

The unions need to hold station and local meetings to give members a say. So far this year UNISON have even failed to hold an AGM, which is supposed to elect reps and branch officers. No union can hope to fight for members if members aren't involved.

Reclaim the Unions!

DEFEND THE NHS

In the past few months hundreds of thousands have mobilised to save the NHS. When the government tried to sneak through their section 75 legislation to privatise the NHS, the 38 degrees website managed to collect 200,000 signatures in a matter of days.

In Leeds over 600,000 people signed a petition to defend their children's heart surgery.

Admin workers in Wakefield, Pontefract and Dewsbury have been taking strong prolonged strike action against downbanding. Londoners protested against hospital cuts at the Whittington and in Lewisham. The Whittington demonstration mobilised 5,000 people against plans to sell off a third of the site, cut beds and slash 570 jobs. People are fighting back. Taken together these local mobilisations could be the beginnings of a mass movement. As that mass movement begins to take shape we will be able to envisage an alternative future that defends rather than attacks workers in the NHS and puts patients before profits.

Workers Liberty is a socialist organisation fighting in the labour movement for a socialist alternative to capitalism and Stalinism based on common ownership and democracy. We welcome free debate and discussion. Get in touch if you want to know more.