

MINUTES

National Nursing and Midwifery Sector Committee

16 July 2009 11.00am – 4.00pm Room G1, UNISON, 1 Mabledon Place,
London WC1H 9AJ

PRESENT: Surinder Gidda (East Midlands); Mike Davey (Greater London); Geraldine Maddison (Northern); John Gilgunn (Northern Ireland); Chris Sullivan (North West); Alex Joyce (Scotland); Peter Atkinson (South East); Jean Morris (Wales); Ann Moses (Yorkshire & Humberside) Christine Wilde (co-optee); Mick McKeown (co-optee);

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Gail Adams (Head of Nursing); Robert Baughan (Health Group Assistant National Officer),
Hanna Najeme (Secretary)

Actions

- 1/07/09 INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2/07/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Bindy Sumner (South West), Julie Biggs (Co-optee)
- 3/07/09 MINUTES**
The minutes of the Nursing and Midwifery Sector meeting held on 13 February 2009 were approved as an accurate record.
- 4/07/09 MATTERS ARISING**
It was agreed that any changes to the minutes should be notified prior to the meeting
- 5/07/09 NURSING CONSULTATIONS**
The Committee noted UNISON's response to the NMC's Draft Guidance on Professional Conduct of Nursing & Midwifery Students.
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Objective 1: Recruitment, Organising and Representing Members

6/07/09

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION & ORGANISING

- Latest recruitment figures. The Committee noted the reports tabled.
- Nursing Times/UNISON Strategic partnership: The Committee noted a verbal report on the Nursing Times/UNISON Strategic partnership. Since the launch of the partnership there had been 8000 hits on the UNISON Nursing Times micro site.

7/07/09

BUDGETS

The Committee noted a report.

Objective 2: Negotiating and Bargaining on Behalf of Members

8/07/09

AGENDA FOR CHANGE

The Committee noted Mike Jackson's vigorous response to calls from the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission for a public sector pay freeze. Mike's response asserted UNISON's position that all parties should honour the current three year pay deal.

The Committee also noted a verbal report by Peter Atkinson on the review of mileage rates for NHS Staff.

9/07/09

HEALTH CONFERENCE 2009

The Committee noted verbal reports by Christine Sullivan and Mick Mckeown on the 2009 Health Conference. It was noted that motions 49 (Nurse training), 51 (healthcare internationalism), 52 (anti BNB), and 53 (nursing public image) had all been passed and were now UNISON policy. In addition the Nursing Sector amendments to motions 54 (proportionality and HCAs), 55 (boom and bust of nursing workforce) and 64 (NHS Counter Fraud) were also passed.

The Committee requested that future Conference fringe meetings be held at lunch time, as it is difficult to generate interest in evening meeting.

10/07/09

STAFFING LEVELS

"Speak up / speak out". The Sector considered a draft of the document. It was agreed this document should focus on nursing, and that an amended draft be presented to the next Nursing Sector meeting in October.

RB

11/07/09

WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted and agreed an update of the Nursing Sector work plan incorporating the relevant resolutions from the 2009 UNISON Health Conference.

Objective 3: Campaigning and Promoting UNISON on Behalf of Members

12/07/09

NMC

- NMC Review Of Pre-Registration Nurse Education: The Committee noted a verbal report.
- Whistle blowing: It was agreed that UNISON would do fact sheet on whistleblowing. Alex Joyce agreed to assist Gail and Robert with the work.
- It was noted that UNISON had sent in a response to the NMC consultation on panellists
- Interim Suspension Orders: It was noted that these should only be issued in the case of new practitioners or when patient safety would be at risk if the practitioner were to continue to practice.
- CHRE Report: It was noted the CHRE has reported that the NMC has begun to rectify its past shortcomings. However there was no room for complacency.

GA/RB/AJ

13/07/09

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

- ISA: The Committee noted a verbal report on ISA
- NHS Bursary Review (Appendix 6): The Committee noted a "Review of the Literature" on Healthcare Student Support Systems which was conducted by London South Bank University, as the part of the Department of Health's NHS Bursary Review. It was noted that Bursary Review Consultation will now take place over three months from 10 September to 10 December.
- Professional Indemnity: It was noted the NMC had agreed to suspend its consultation on Professional Indemnity.
- Safer Needles: The Committee noted that the European Social Partners (EPSU and HOSPEEM) had launched its "framework agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector". This agreement is due to incorporated into European law through the Council of Ministers at the end of the year.
- Prime Ministers Commission for Nursing & Midwifery: The Committee noted a presentation by Jane Salvage on the work of the Commission. Following the presentation there was a wide ranging discussion where the issues raised included how nurses can give themselves a modern identity, build bridges and maintain respect of service users. It was agreed that Gail Adams would write UNISON's response, liaising with the Chairs, to the Commission.
- Conservative future of nursing: The Committee noted the Conservative Party's paper on nursing. It was agreed the document had little new to say of worth on the future of nursing.
- Migrant Care Workers in Ageing Societies: The Committee noted the report by COMPAS (ESRC Centre on Migration, Policy and Society).

Gail Adams

14/07/09

SUB GROUP PROFESSIONAL REPORTS

- To receive a report on the mental health professional work programme: It was noted that UNISON would be responding to the Government's New Horizons consultation on mental health. It was noted that the mental health workforce is facing a demographic time bomb with Mental Health Officers able to retire at 55.

**Robert
Baughan to
draft
consultation
response**

Objective 4: Developing an Efficient and Effective Union

15/07/09

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business had been notified to the Chair before the start of the meeting.

16/07/09

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 2009

The next meeting will be held on 23 October. 22 October will be a training day. Committee members were asked to ensure their participation in the training day by completing and forwarding their application to Hannah Najeme.

**All Committee
members**