

Branch Meeting

**Wednesday
24th
May
6.30 p.m.**

STUC
333 Woodlands Road
Glasgow
G3 6NG



Branch Safety Officer
Derek Anstee at last month's
Branch meeting

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- **AfC unsocial hours and on-call**
- **Cuts loom as board faces deficit**
- **King's Fund report slates consultant pay deal**

Audit Scotland slam NHS24 fees

A report by finance watchdog Audit Scotland has slammed NHS24 spending on consultancy fees. The report reveals that one firm Cap Gemini, received more than £14 million for 'consultation, advice and creation of the original blueprint design for the NHS 24 project.' Not exactly value for money considering the plethora of complaints and problems which dogged NHS 24 from its inception.


Audit Scotland also found that NHS 24 management: 'failed to review the work being carried out by consultants to ensure quality of service and value for money'; 'failed to monitor payments to individual consultancy firms'; 'extended the contract with Cap Gemini on three separate occasions without competitive bids, resulting in one contract increasing in value by more than £3 million'.

Top Tory lambasts flagship PFI deal in the NHS

Edward Leigh, the Conservative chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, has called the 'refinancing' PFI deal of Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Trust "the unacceptable face of capitalism...shown by this private sector consortium in its dealings with the public sector". Octagon, the private finance initiative (PFI) consortium, boosted their return on investment from a fairly healthy 19% to an amazing 60% by borrowing another £106 million

and giving £34 million to the hospital and the rest to themselves. In return for their £34 million, the hospital accepted an additional liability of £257 million and an increase in the life of the contract from 34 years to 39 years. The £34 million is being paid over the life of the contract. So for less than £1 million a year, the hospital pays out PFI charges for an extra 5 years and incurs an extra liability of £257 million. (more on this story on the Branch website)

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AfC unsocial hours and on-call arrangements

The negotiations over unsocial hours arrangements under Agenda for Change (AfC) are taking longer than expected. Accordingly, it has been agreed that the new implementation date will be April 2007.

With regard to on-call arrangements, the current position is that staff groups could retain their current local or Whitley provisions for 4 years until October 2008 or move to the AfC interim arrangements. The purpose of the 4 year 'protection period' was to allow further discussions on on-call and either confirm or modify the interim arrangements. There has been no change to this position.

Cuts 'loom' as board faces £28 million deficit

Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board is preparing to cut expenditure because of a shortfall in the cash allocated to services in the former Argyll and Clyde area. Although the Scottish Executive wiped out the £80 million of debt which Argyll and Clyde had accumulated, the services which were transferred to Glasgow are underfunded by £28 million. The Board states that most of the overspend can be offset by savings but services in the Clyde area will be overspent by some £5 to £7 million. There are no plans for compulsory or voluntary redundancies but previous plans to downgrade services are being actively examined.

King's Fund report slates consultant pay deal

A report from the authoritative King's Fund has criticised the new consultant contract for failing to lead to changes in consultant working patterns or influence patient care. The report states that the pay deal was £90 million over budget (consultant salaries rose by 36% between 2001 and 2005; starting salary is now £69, 298) because 'the funding formula was based on flawed financial and workload assumptions' and that national guidance was 'absent, unclear or delayed'.

The report concludes 'There are significant concerns that some NHS organisations do not seem to have complete plans in place to ensure that the contract can be used to benefit patients directly.'

Mailing list

Members are reminded that they can be informed when the branch website is updated and receive an electronic copy of the Branch Newsletter by sending an email with the subject line 'subscribe newsletter' to: editor@amicusglasgowhealth.org

Branch Meeting Wednesday 24th May

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and arising.
3. Correspondence.
4. Reports.
5. Motions.
6. A.O.C.B.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Thursday 29th June, 2006 at 6.30 p.m. All meetings are held in the Scottish Trade Union Congress, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6NG. (Tea, coffee & biscuits 6.15 p.m.)

