



**Notes of UNISON Central Sussex Hospitals Branch Executive Committee
held on Tuesday 12th June 2007 at 12:00 pm
in the UNISON Office, Beechmont.**

In attendance: Mark Sargent - Secretary (MS)
Stephanie Swaysland - Chairman [SS]
Steve Marshall - Vice-Chairman (SMA)
Samantha Menon - Health and Safety Officer (SMe)
Hazel Dives - Ward Clerks Workplace Contact (HD)
Susan Ayres - Wendyhouse Nursery Workplace Contact (SA)
Marilyn Seward - Welfare Officer [MSa]

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Eve Slocombe - Education Officer
Karen Sargent - Treasurer
Valerie Knapp - Ward Clerks Workplace Contact

2 Retirement of Steve Marshall

Members of the committee expressed their thanks to SS for all the efforts and work he had put into the branch and its membership. Best wishes were extended for long and happy retirement. It was also commented on that as he would have more spare time now, he may wish to help out in the office from time to time !!

3 Secretary's Report

3.1 Pay Award 2007

An update was given with regards the pay award. It was noted that both the Pay Review Body award and its staging, and the Non-review body offer had been rejected by the UNISON and a significant number of the other trade unions. UNISON would now move to a ballot of members on taking industrial action. Letters had gone out to members asking them to update their details in preparation for this ballot.

3.2 Car Parking

The new permit system was due to start from the 1st July, with successful applicants being sent the new permit in mid-June. It was noted that there was still an outstanding UNISON grievance that was close to resolution,

relating to the policy. It was also noted that the number of applicants was less than the number of available permits. The committee discussed elements of the system, including the current arrangement that enabled individuals to purchase daily tickets at a cost of £1, and whether this was to continue. Alternative arrangements were also discussed, such as the pool car scheme and the proposed “taxi-bus” initiative which was being developed.

3.3 Fit for the Future

It was reported that East Sussex consultation would be ending on the 27th July, and MS urged all UNISON members to send in a response. The documentation (see <http://www.southeastcoastfff.nhs.uk/Home/East-Sussex/Documents.aspx>) offered 4 options for discussion, all of which would result in a downgrading of hospital sites, particularly for maternity services. Campaigners had produced an unofficial “Option 5” (see <http://www.eastsussexhealth.org/pdf/Option5SavingLives.pdf>). In addition the East Sussex Maternity Services Liaison Committee have produced a useful document (<http://www.eastsussexhealth.org/pdf/East%20Sussex%20Maternity%20Services%20Liaison%20Cttee%20report%2014%20March%202007.pdf>).

MS was under the impression that the PCT’s were under extreme pressure to take onboard the Option 5 proposal, and it was vital that that pressure was enhanced by people firmly rejecting the other 4 options and urging the consideration of option 5. The outcome would set precedents for the West Sussex outcome, and this may well be the reason for the delay of the West Sussex documentation. It was likely that a West Sussex consultation would start towards the end of June, and run for 4 months.

3.4 Tax relief

UNISON had managed to secure tax relief on subscriptions for some of its members. Those eligible were discussed and it was noted that UNISON continued to push for it to be applicable to all healthcare members. MS said that details, including access to a claim form would be placed on the website shortly (<http://www.unison.org.uk/healthcare/taxrelief.asp>).

3.5 Website

MS reported that the website was being updated and developed regularly and was now near completion. It was hoped that this would become one of the main tools for communication with members.

3.6 Training

A list of new training courses were discussed, and MS highlighted that TUC courses that would be running from September

3.7 Staff Side Survey

The NHS Staff Council were conducting a survey of union members to assist with collating of evidence for submission for the 2008/09 pay claim (see http://www.unison.org.uk/healthcare/pages_view.asp?did=5269). Committee members were encouraged to engage in this process.

3.8 *Managers pay*

It was noted that very senior managers, including Chief Executives, had been given a 1.3% pay award for the new financial year (http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_074185).

3.9 *Caseforms*

The new caseform was now available on the website, and should be used by all members requesting advice or representation (<http://www.unison-csh.org.uk/resources/caseform.htm>).

4 Treasurers Report

The branch financial position was healthy with approx £5000 in the current (Unity) account as of 31/12/06, and £4000 in the building society (Portman) account as at the same date. It was noted there was some outstanding payments to be made in the near future, most of which relating to recent publicity materials such as new lanyards, pens, mouse pad, etc, at a cost of about £3000.

5 Other Officers and Reps

5.1 *Welfare Officer*

MSa distributed some information regarding UNISON welfare, including a newsletter she had produced. She emphasised that it is a big benefit for members, and was keen to make members aware of what Welfare could do for them if they needed access to such services. MSa had attended the Welfare AGM in May

5.2 *Education Officer*

No report available

5.3 *Equality Officer.*

SS highlighted the Womans Forum and the potential of developing the branch by encouraging more members to become involved. There were also opportunities to create self-organised groups.

5.4 *Health and Safety*

SMe had not been able to attend the last H&S committee. She raised the issue of "Slips and Trips" for kitchen staff.

6 Any Other Business.

6.1 Nursery Rep.

SA informed the committee that as she would be retirement in the new year she had found a new representative for the nursery. MS would include the rep in branch e-mails, and hoped she would be able to attend some of the exec committee meetings.

7 Date and Time of Next Meeting.

The date for the next meeting will be Tuesday 10th July 2007, 12pm to 2pm.