

Congress 2005

Emergency motion

E3 Patient -led NHS

Congress notes a survey by the Health Service Journal published on the 25 August showing the expected scale of the re-organisation of England's 303 Primary Care Trusts, leading to the loss of 150 Trusts.

Congress also notes with extreme concern a recent letter, dated 26 August 2005, from John Bacon, Director of DOH, regarding the Government's recent document 'Commissioning a Patient-led NHS'. Bacon describes 'rushing headlong into the design of new delivery units'.

Congress is particularly concerned about the large number of staff, including those working on the frontline, who are extremely anxious about their future and are fearful of the uncontrolled nature of these reforms and the damaging effects of marketisation on patient care.

Congress calls on the General Council to:

- i) lobby urgently for the reintroduction of control mechanisms to ensure the directive authority of the Department of Health;
- ii) press for the NHS Employers' Organisation to enter into urgent discussions with the trade unions with a view to agreeing a national framework for managing the staffing implications of the proposed changes;
- iii) campaign, in coalition with patient groups and other interested organisations, against outsourcing of PCT-provided services and for a reversal of the Government's policy that the role of PCTs in direct service provision should be reduced to a minimum; and
- iv) campaign against marketisation of the NHS.

Congress therefore calls upon the Government to reconsider proposals that would lead to the privatisation of primary care services and take action to address cuts to frontline community staff.

Mover: UNISON

Secunder: Amicus