



PRESS RELEASE

06 October 2010

GMB FEAR THAT MORE THAN 100 JOBS ARE UNDER THREAT AS NORTH CUMBRIA NHS TRUST SEEKS TO SAVE MORE THAN £21M

The very savings that the Trust Board wants to make threatens the delivery of services that the Trust spent so much money consulting the community about says GMB

GMB, Cumbria's public services union, fears that more than 100 jobs are under threat as North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust (NCUH), which covers both the West Cumberland Hospital in Whitehaven and the Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle, plans to make budgetary cuts. The Trust Board announced that they want to slash an additional 6% from all budgets. Earlier this year NCUH Trust Board had asked its Departments to save £21 million.

GMB fear that jobs under threat are nurses, cleaners, catering staff and administrative workers. This is at odds with a recent letter to all employees in which the NCUH Chief Executive Carole Heatly said that it was the Trust's intention to avoid compulsory redundancies or to reduce services. However in subsequent reviews the demand for savings from the Trust Board are being targeted at frontline and back office functions. The Trust have also said that they wish to reduce the sums spent on agency staff, locums and layers of management and in this they have the support of GMB

Kevin Young, GMB Regional Organiser said **"What is galling is that a couple of years ago North Cumbria NHS Trust undertook a wide ranging and costly public consultation exercise called Closer to Home. The very savings that the Trust Board wants to make threatens the delivery of services that the Trust spent so much money consulting the community about.**

Let's be in no doubt, the Tory led Government's scandalous public sector cuts are going to affect local people who need vital health and other public services. North Cumbria NHS Trust is basically using spin as an excuse to hide behind their real agenda, which is to privatise and to cut.

GMB members are not going to stand aside and let that happen and neither will local people; especially after the Trust have already, wasted money on public consultation, only to throw it aside a matter of months later."

-Ends-

Contact: Kevin Young, GMB Organiser on 07870 176747 or Keir Howe, GMB Organiser on 07870 176727 or GMB Press Office: Steve Pryle on 07921 289880 or Rose Conroy on 07974 251823.