



PRESS RELEASE

UNION HITS OUT AT HOSPITAL TRUST

The North's biggest general trade union today attacked a local NHS Trust at their proposals for Foundation Trust Status.

The GMB Union said that North Cumbria University Hospitals Trust (NCUH) had confirmed the Union's long held suspicions that NCUH's strategy has been to mangle its operations in such a way to put Foundation Status ahead of patient and employee care.

The GMB Union has repeatedly said that NCUH's debts were a millstone round the local community's neck and that recent management programmes aimed at saving money were simply a cover for failure of governance, management and financial arrangements.

Kevin Young GMB Regional Organiser at NCUH said:

"This is what happens when assets are mortgaged under PFI, staff are managed poorly and failure is rewarded at the highest level".

The GMB claims that NCUH is saying that it now needs to join forces with another organisation to achieve Foundation Status shows how unaccountable the NHS really is.

Mr Young said:

"Unlike Local Government, the NHS is totally unaccountable to the local people it serves. Senior Executives are unseen and carry out their duties and in some cases are given rewards for managing failure. It is frankly scandalous that the people in Cumbria are being so badly served by those at the top in NCUH".

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