



PRESS RELEASE

UNION SAYS TRUST MANAGERS HAVE SNOUTS IN TROUGH

Cumbria's biggest trade union has today launched an attack against a Cumbrian NHS Trust over its approach to managing its budgets.

The GMB Union says that North Cumbria University Hospitals (NCUH) NHS Trust is favouring agency and highly paid staff over lower income workers. The GMB believes that NCUH's approach is to undermine the NHS' National Agenda for Change (AfC) which was resourced by the last Labour Government to evaluate jobs and harmonise terms and conditions across the sector.

The GMB Union says that NCUH has an historic debt of £21 million. This has to be found by April of this year to make the Trust viable to apply for Foundation Trust status. Through a Cost Improvement Programme a series of Departmental Reviews are taking place where a number jobs are at risk.

Kevin Young GMB Regional Organiser at NCUH said:

"I recently requested the NCUH NHS Trust pay bill for salaried and non salaried employees. From the information provided there is a situation where the Trust pays three times more on average to non AfC employees who form by far the minority of staff at the Trust. In addition NCUH paid in the last year £6.5 million to agency staff."

"NCUH are in our view attacking the terms and conditions of hard working employees and favouring agency and other workers who are not part of the Trust's main workforce".

The GMB believes that NCUH are hiding behind spurious and bogus management jargon in justifying their high pay bill for a small group of people.

Mr Young said:

"Yet again this just shows that the NHS is an unaccountable feeding frenzy for senior NHS Mangers and those employed from outside of the mainstream of the NHS. Governance arrangements at NCUH need to be drastically improved so that high rollers are not protecting themselves at the expense of relatively lower paid staff".

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