



BREAKTHROUGH!

The announcement that bosses will have to rethink their planned cuts to the National Blood Service is fantastic news for staff.

Until now NBS directors have flatly refused to consider any change to their proposals, no matter who from or how sensible. They have felt untouchable. For them to now put the brakes on and admit they are ready to think again about even small parts of the plans means the opposition is reaching a level that they

cannot ignore. It can be no coincidence that this letter comes just after staff-side beginning steps for a ballot on industrial action. Bosses have seriously underestimated the staff's willingness to be pushed around and see the Blood Service they are proud of fall into a messy decline in the name of 'savings'.

With this knowledge to spur us on now is the time to carry on campaigning at full speed. Service users and patients still need a bigger say in the running of the NBS. This review shows that we can make sure that the policy-makers have no choice but to involve us all.

There was also further news that the Board is really starting to feel the heat. Martin Gorham the Chief Executive announced the shock news he is to stand down. It is highly unusual for bosses to resign in the middle of a major restructuring. What does Martin Gorham know that we don't? Did he jump ship when he knew he was onto a loser?



For all the latest campaign updates check out the campaign website:-
www.nbs-sos.blogspot.com
or subscribe to the mailout by sending an email to:-
iww.nbs@googlemail.com

As Gorham quits NBS celebrates...

Workers at the Birmingham blood processing centre held an impromptu celebration at the announcement that boss Gorham is to quit. The Board of the NBS have been used to feeling untouchable. The news that they have been forced to react to pressure from staff and growing public awareness and scrutiny over their handling of their proposed restructuring shows that despite their plans and strategies, with pressure from staff and the public nothing is set in stone.

SUPPORT ROUND-UP..

- Top story is that Sheffield City Council resolved on June 25th that it 'views with grave concern the proposals outlined by the National Blood Service to re-organise the Service in England and Wales without sufficient evidence of the need to re-organise the Service'. The motion goes on thoroughly criticise every aspect of the dodgy strategy. A good stick to beat the vampires with - maybe the first of many supportive councils?
(See full report on the Save Our Blood Service weblog)
- The Brumstar local community newsletter team and the IWW union dropped a 10 foot banner outside the Birmingham centre at the end of July, to show support for the staff and the local service. Cars beeped while passing patients and health workers had their eyes opened to the threatened closures.
(Picture on weblog)
- The online petition has raced past 1000 in just a few weeks. NBS workers and supporters have already gathered a few thousand signatures on paper around each one of the 'at risk' blood centres. These are great numbers of friends demonstrating solidarity and who want us to win!
(Link to petition on weblog)



What do YOU think?

The NBS worker is put together by NBS staff angry at the restructuring plans. We feel that these plans have been cobbled together behind closed doors without involving staff or patients. However we really want to know what staff across the country really think, as WE are what makes the NBS work. You can help us to gauge this by answering a few questions...

[please fill out or circle the following and send to the address below]

- What section of the NBS do you work in? _____
- Do you know what the restructuring plans will mean for you? YES / NO
- Do you feel you were adequately consulted over the NBS Board's proposal? YES / NO
- What is good about working for the blood service

- If you could change one thing about the Blood Service what would it be

Answers to: iww.nbs@googlemail.com

THE NBS WORKER SAYS...

With the review as breathing space, the campaign against the NBS lab cuts can really get organised. We work in all corners of the country and lots of us, in the same service, never speak a word to each other. There are collection teams who don't even know about the centralisation proposals, and likewise lab staff are in the dark about the unpopular trials for donor carers.

It feels like there is apathy to the NBS staff from the wider NHS and public, but the truth is this is just lack of awareness. When the message gets out there it stirs up disbelief and anger from everyone. We just have to spread it further.

If we start by talking to each other, and building strong and friendly links, then we can put our voices together at top volume to fight the board of directors, with the public back-up we need.

Your Letters.

Dear NBS Worker

The motto of the NBS should be: 'Too many chiefs'. These overpaid idiots on the board have no idea about the daily running of our service. We know the names of patients, and feel the pressure of blue light emergencies. All they look at is the yearly finance reports over a platter of Danish pastries. As the real lifesavers in this organisation, we are the ones with the right to say what will work and what won't.

Name and address supplied.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TODAY

The campaign against the restructuring is growing, and we have started to achieve real victories as we work towards getting the board's plans shelved. But together we are stronger and the more voices we have arguing our case across the country, the more likely we are to win. There are lots of ways you can help the campaign out. If have just an hour or two a week (or more if you want!) to help the campaign we want to hear from you!

Drop us a line by emailing:-
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or by texting: 07807 368276
or by writing to:

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TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER