**GENERAL SECRETARY REPORT**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**JULY 2022**

1. **Office/Staff:**

Staff are dividing their time between home and office. Visits to the office are dictated by workload/subject with an eye on post, cheques and other business.

We are waiting for those venues that are free to us to be opened fully.

1. **Taking the ‘N’ out of the NHS:**

The 42 Integrated Care Services/Boards (ICS/ICB) are now in place. This means health is no longer a ‘national’ service in England, carved up to deliver locally with less budget than before.

We have had some success with around 11 Chairs of ICBs signing a pledge not to allow private companies on boards with another 12 making verbal commitments to the pledge. If you have yet to contact the Chair of your ICB, you can do this through the We Own It! website – ‘find my NHS’.

1. **NHS Digital Data:**

The NPC Health & Social Care and Digital Working Parties made a joint response to the consultation on further digitalising the NHS. The response is on the website. The Equalities Commission has been sent a copy and we continue to send issues of digital exclusion to them. They are committed to addressing digital exclusion in their new Strategic Plan and will focus particularly on engaging with service providers to ensure they understand how digital exclusion affects people (including older people and disabled people) and making them aware of their responsibilities under the Equality Act. We will update as and when we receive information.

The new Federated Data Platform case shows that the amount of £240,000,000 cost is under estimated. As it stands, this new data scheme will take all GP, Hospital, Clinic and other data without consulting with patients. A lot of this data is extremely sensitive and is worth billions to those with an eye to profit. The NPC is arguing that not only should patients be consulted, but they should be able to choose the data to be accessed. Through Foxglove, we have found out that nothing on consultation will take place until 2023 by which time the contract and the system to be used will be concluded. MPs are continuing to ask questions in parliament.

1. **Triple Lock:**

The reinstatement of the triple lock for 2023 has been confirmed, although with changes in government and the level of criticism against pensioners receiving what could be 10% when workers are being told not to ask for a pay rise, things may change. Regardless, we need to challenge those who want to instate generational divide. Pensioners spend a greater percentage of their fixed income on essentials like food and energy. 10% of nothing – is nothing!

We are waiting for a response from the BBC regarding our complaint about two Radio 4 programmes that showed bias against older people.

1. **BT Digital Switch:**

The NPC has been invited to be a member of the Steering Group that will oversee the implementation of the switch over. Jonathan will make comment on the initial meeting he attended in his report.

1. **Working Parties:**

Included with this report is the outcome of voting for those Working Parties who had more than 10 nominations. Within that information are the criteria for decisions on those nominees with tied votes. These decisions were made as of right by the General Secretary in discussion with the President and in accordance with the NPC striving to achieve a balance within working parties.

In addition to this, there is an issue of a clerical error which meant that a nominee was left off the list for the Women’s Working Party. As this is not the fault of the nominee, the officers propose that on this one single occasion, setting no precedent for the future, that the EC allows the co-option of this nominee onto the Women’s Working Party for the term of two years. The Women’s Working Party have been consulted and are in agreement with this way forward as is the nominee affected.

1. **TUC Demand Better:**

The NPC banner was at the TUC event on 18 June along with several members from regions. For the very first time, NPC was on the platform of speakers raising the issues for those workers who will become the pensioners of the future.

A meeting has been arranged with Frances O’Grady in August to follow this up and see how we can include all four nations of the TUC.

The TUC are planning a Lobby of Parliament in October – not many details so far, but we will update when we have them. We should agree now to support the lobby with our banner and encourage our affiliates/regions to support where they can.

1. **Annual Convention:**

We are currently looking at two venues in Birmingham, both free and both close to New Street Station for the week commencing 19 September. One will hold a maximum of 100 people, the other 150 people plus. Both have hybrid access. We will need to have an understanding of how many members will travel to Birmingham before we confirm one of the bookings. Please let us have your numbers as a matter of urgency. The registration fee for both face to face and online attendance will be £5 per person.

1. **GS Activities:**

* Enfield Over 50’s Forum – the Monty Meth Inaugural Lecture
* NPC Webinar ‘NHS Where Now’
* TUC Demand Better
* Webinar Assisted Dying
* NHS Birthday (Newcastle)
* Age Sector Forum
* Ageing Without Children (August)

**Jan Shortt**

**July 2022**

**VOTING – EC MAY 2022**

**HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| June Clark | F | Royal College of Nursing | 26 |
| David Vickers | M | Royal College of Nursing | 23 |
| Barrie Finch | M | NPC Thames Valley | 20 |
| Maureen Wade | F | NPC West Midlands | 20 |
| Valerie Johnston | F | NPC Northern Region | 19 |
| Pat Roche | F | UCU | 19 |
| Jean Hardiman-Smith | F | CSPA | 17 |
| Martin Gallagher | M | Unison | 17 |
| Christine Sanders | F | NPC London Region | 16 |
| Mary Cousins | F | NPC Yorkshire & Humberside | 15 |
| Malcolm Wallace | M | TSSA | 13 |
| Graham Wilkins | M | Unison | 12 |
| Lourdes Keever | F | NPC London Region | 7 |

**TRANSPORT WORKING PARTY**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tony Donaghey | M | RMT | 27 |
| Joel Kosminsky | M | TSSA / NPC North West | 24 |
| Leslie McDowell | M | British Transport Pensioners' Federation | 24 |
| Fran Postlethwaite | F | NPC Yorkshire & Humberside | 19 |
| Terry Carter | M | NPC North West | 19 |
| Derrick Baker | M | GMB | 17 |
| Charles King | M | NPC London Region | 15 |
| Cheryl O’Brien | F | TSSA | 15 |
| Tony Conway | M | PCS | 15 |
| Terry Murphy | M | NPC London Region | 14 |
| Allan Jeyes | M | NPC Home Counties North | 13 |
| John Edwards | M | NPC East Midlands | 13 |
| Michael McLoughlin | M | Unite | 10 |
| Richard Worrall | M | NPC West Midlands | 9 |

Please note:

In the Digital and Structure Working Parties there were three nominees with tied votes for the last two places on each of these Working Parties.

It is the decision of the General Secretary in these circumstances to find a way forward that is

in line with the President’s wishes made before the election took place at the EC in May.

My decision is noted under the relevant Working Party and supported by the President.

**DIGITAL WORKING PARTY**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| David Briggs | M | Royal College of Nursing | 26 |
| David Luxton | M | CSPA | 24 |
| Janet Shapiro | F | NPC London Region | 19 |
| Alan Edgar | M | NPC Thames Valley | 18 |
| Jenny Sims | F | NUJ | 18 |
| Luke Howard | M | TSSA | 18 |
| Violet Rook | F | NPC Northern Region | 18 |
| Verena Beane | F | NPC London Region | 17 |
| Alan Sidaway | M | Unite | 16 |
| Bernie Gallagher | F | NPC North West | 16 |
| Maureen Childs | F | NPC London Region | 16 |
| Lawrence Huston | M | CWU | 14 |
| Anne Gray | F | NPC London Region | 11 |

In this working party, there were three nominees with tied votes for the last two available places.

The criteria used in my decision making is as follows:

1. To achieve as far as possible an equal spread of national and regional nominating bodies.
2. To achieve as far as possible opportunities for new nominees.

Following this criteria, London Region already had two members on this working party. The other two nominees were from two different nominating bodies not already part of the working party.

One nominee was new to the NPC working party system.

Therefore, my decision was to place those two people onto the working party, as shown in green on the above table.

**STRUCTURE WORKING PARTY**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| David Briggs | M | Royal College of Nursing | 21 |
| Joel Kosminsky | M | TSSA / NPC North West | 17 |
| John Paine | M | NPC Thames Valley | 17 |
| Tony Hall | M | CSPA | 17 |
| Mike McCartney | M | NPC London Region | 15 |
| Allan Jeyes | M | NPC Home Counties North | 13 |
| Verena Beane | F | NPC London Region | 13 |
| Tom James | M | NPC Wessex | 12 |
| Allen Hawley | M | NPC London Region | 9 |
| Billy Laing | M | RMT | 7 |
|  |  |  |  |

In this Working Party there were two nominees with tied votes for the last place available.

Again, London Region already had a member on this working party. The London Region nominee already has a place on another working party. The other nominee was not placed on any other working party and was from a different region.

Therefore, my decision was to place that person on the working party as shown in green on the above table.

I am aware that this working party is all-male and historically always has been. Other working parties are predominantly male, and we need to continue our work on balancing gender as well as affiliates. The message is getting through; we just need to keep repeating it!