

Support Junior Doctors, Defend the NHS!

Proposed: Christopher Roche, **Seconded:** Kim Luetchford

Bath University and College Union Local Association Committee:

Notes:

- 1) Government attempts to impose without offer of meaningful negotiation contracts on Junior Doctors which have been roundly condemned by front line healthcare workers as not safe and not fair
- 2) 98% support for all out strike by BMA members, with 3 days of strike action, commencing with a 24 hour strike on 1st December
- 3) Following implementation of The Health and Social Care Act (2012), over £7 billion of NHS contracts have been issued to private providers.
- 4) The rate of privatisation increased by 500% from 2013/14 to 2014/15, when over £3.5 billion of contracts issued to private providers in 2014/15
- 5) Jeremy Hunt, Health Secretary, is on record calling for the dismantling of the NHS. In his book "Direct Democracy he said "Our ambition should be to break down the barriers between private and public provision, in effect denationalising the provision of health care in Britain".
- 6) The government's Green Paper on Higher Education also outlines plans for accelerated marketisation of higher education, increased involvement of private for-profit providers, and the 'exit from the market' of universities.

Believes:

- 1) The NHS is under attack from a Tory government that is ideologically determined to see the public health service further marketised and run in the interests of profit
- 2) The Health and Social Care Act (2012) has unleashed chaos and fragmentation into the health service, which is dangerous for patients, harmful for healthcare workers and potentially fatal for our public healthcare system.
- 3) That the same ideological motivations are driving marketisation of the higher education sector, similarly fragmenting and damaging the British university system
- 4) Education and health care are public services that should be freely available to all, publicly funded, controlled and operated
- 5) That defence of public education and healthcare against marketisation and privatisation will be best achieved if workers, patients and students stand united and campaign together.

Resolves:

- 1) To issue a public statement of support to Junior Doctors taking part in industrial action in Bath and elsewhere
- 2) To work with Bath Trades Union Council and local BMA Reps to provide practical support where requested.
- 3) To send at least two delegates, and encourage other members to go, to the support rally on the eve of the first strike day in Bristol (<https://www.facebook.com/events/977559115648519/>)
- 4) To send at least one member to support picket lines on strike days and encourage members to also attend
- 5) To promote and encourage members to share this petition, calling on local Tory MP Ben Howlett to support the removal of pre-conditions to negotiations - <https://www.change.org/p/ben-howlett-conservative-mp-ben-howlett-conservative-mp-for-bath-ask-the-government-to-remove-the-pre-conditions-to-negotiations-on-junior-doctor-contracts>
- 6) To encourage members to change their university email avatar and social media profile pictures to show support for doctors. For example see attached.

Passed: 2015-11-26