



CAMPAIGN PACK

Save South Yorkshire Patient Transport from Privatisation. Keep the Service in the NHS!

What is happening?

The contract for the PTS service for the whole of South Yorkshire is out to tender. This means there is a possibility that the service will be provided in future by a private company instead of YAS.

UNISON believes that our members deserve to have their jobs kept in the NHS and so we have launched this campaign to fight the potential privatisation.

This pack has some materials and ideas to help start the campaign, but the most important thing is for members on PTS and A&E to get involved.

How will the Decision be Made?

YAS has put in a bid for the contract. There are 4 stages to the tender process. Stage 3&4 will be at the beginning of 2017 with the final decision being made in February. The new contract will start in July 2017.

The decision is made by the commissioners for the NHS, the people who hold the NHS budget. This is the clinical commissioning groups (CCG) for the areas. For this contract the lead CCG is the Sheffield CCG

The Sheffield CCG has generally kept NHS services within the public sector so we have a good chance but we don't want to be complacent. We need to do what we can to convince them that our members within YAS can provide the best service.

What can we do to Keep the Service and Jobs in the NHS?

- Put pressure on the decision makers
- Contact MPs and City councillors
- Raise awareness amongst the Public
- Get support from patients and hospital staff
- Get in the Press

Campaign Materials and Events

We have produced: Petition, Stickers, Leaflets

And have planned

Leafletting football matches

Sat 17th Dec Sheffield Wednesday v Rotherham
meet at Middlewood station at 1300

Campaign days shoppers in Town Centres

Lobby Sheffield CCG 2nd February 2017

**We want the Clinical Commissioning
Groups of South Yorkshire to support a
publicly run and owned Patient
Transport Service.
Oppose NHS Privatisation!
Protect Jobs and pensions!**

What Can We Do?

Put pressure on the Decision Makers

We have drawn up a petition calling on the CCGs to keep the PTS service in the NHS.

We want to get as many signatures as possible. We will collect these in at the union office in Roth-erham. We want to collect them by 27th January so that we can hand them in to the Sheffield CCG at their meeting on 2nd February 2017.

Contact MPs and City Councillors

The Local councils and MPs are also in a position to influence the decision, so we want to contact as many of them as possible, either by letter/email or by visiting their surgeries to ask them to support our campaign. They are most likely to listen to people who live in the wards and constituencies they represent. You can find out who your local councillors and MPs are and their contact details at : www.writetothem.com

This website will also enable you to contact them.

We have included a sample letter to an MP/ councillor. You can adapt this to send to them.

Raise Awareness amongst the Public

The more support we can get from the public the better. This includes from patients, other NHS workers, especially staff that we work with in the hospitals, your family and friends, people in your community, through a sports club, social club, pub, church, mosque or other place of worship, in local shops etc. etc.—anyone you come into contact with.

We have produced petitions and leaflets so people can show their support.

Get in the Press

It is also important to raise awareness by contacting the press. UNISON will do press releases for our campaign events but one good way of getting publicity is to write a letter to your local paper (use the example and write it in your own words.)

We can also use social media—but it is important to use this wisely as people have got in bother by posting about work. UNISON will produce items for our facebook page which you can share and re-post.

Start off by deciding to just do one of these things. If everyone on PTS does one thing we will have a big campaign against privatisation!

What do we Say?

Why are we Against Privatisation?

1 NHS Services should not be run for profit. We want the NHS publicly funded, owned and provided.

Private companies provide services to make profit. If the profit dries up or the contract is difficult to fulfil they may pull out or not provide parts of an essential service. Private companies do not necessarily have the financial backing to stick with a contract. Public services are committed to long term care of the public.

2 You, the members at YAS, have years of experience providing quality care, additional training in first aid and health and safety to ensure the best service to the public. You go out of your way everyday to provide not just transport but care, spending time settling people into their homes and ensuring they are safe . This can get squeezed out in a profit driven service. We've all seen private ambulance companies cutting corners with patient care.

3 Privatisation may threaten the quality jobs of nearly 200 staff—workers pay, pensions, conditions and carer prospects. If the service is privatised workers from that contract would probably be transferred under TUPE regulations, but this does not ensure your terms and conditions. This is something we would have to fight for at the time. When Thames won the East Midlands contract in Lincolnshire they cut staff pay and conditions and did not provide NHS pensions.

Well supported staff = a good quality service. Attacks on jobs are bad for the workers in the service but is also a loss of quality jobs to the area and community.

4 The NHS is able to provide services to all different types of patients whatever their condition, mobility or destination. It provides a one service for all hospitals and patients. Privatisation to different companies brings confusion and fragmentation for everyone. PTS also helps the A&E services in major emergencies, which private companies would not be equipped to do in the same way.

Letter to Councillors and MPs

Dear _____

I am writing as a resident of your area to ask you to support me and my colleagues in Yorkshire Ambulance service UNISON in our campaign to stop the privatisation of Patient Transport Services in South Yorkshire.

The contract is currently out to tender with a decision being made by the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups in February.

I have worked for the service for ____ years. The reason I believe you should oppose privatisation are (use some of the examples in our pack including about quality of service and the loss of good jobs to the area and add your own experience)

Please could you

1. Pledge your support to our campaign;
2. Speak publicly and to the press about this issue;
3. Ask questions of and put pressure on the CCG;
4. Ask questions and put pressure through the local council health scrutiny bodies.

Thanks for your support

Your faithfully _____

Letter to the Press

I work as an ambulance driver for the NHS Yorkshire Ambulance Patient Transport Service, taking people to hospital for their appointments. The contract for our service is out to tender and threatened with privatisation.

I've worked for the service for _____ years and go out of my way every day to provide a caring and friendly service to the people of Barnsley/Sheffield/Rotherham/ Doncaster. I often spend extra time making sure that the people we transport, most are elderly and frail and many have dementia, are settled into their homes and safe. I know that under a private company time is money and the quality service I am able to give will be squeezed out.

I don't want to see an NHS run for profit and don't believe the people of South Yorkshire do either.

My pay, pension and conditions are also under threat. That's bad for me and my family but also a loss of quality jobs with training and prospects to our community.

Yours _____

Contact the team of UNISON reps to get involved or with any ideas you have : Alison Brown, South Area Secretary 07886399683, Shaun Hobson, South Area Convenor 07789172074, Mick Askew, PTS Convenor 07506134110, Shaun McGinty, South Area PTS convenor 07515594873, Pete Oliver, Doncaster Steward