

Amicus lobby of Parliament January 10, 2006

Don't break up our health service

The health white paper is expected early in the new year and Amicus is concerned that any change to care provision does not break up the cohesion of the health service. There is real worry among health professionals that if the proposals contained in 'Commissioning a Patient-led NHS' are introduced there will be a dangerous fragmentation of primary care services.

Health visitors, community nurses, primary care pharmacists and other health professionals could end up being employed by a variety of organisations such as GPs, the voluntary sector or private companies rather than directly by the NHS as they are now. There are concerns that some of the most experienced staff will leave their professions rather than change to new employers. This cannot be allowed to happen.

Amicus believes that there is a real danger in the government's apparent assumption that the private sector is more efficient than the public sector. You only need to look at hospital cleaning to see how the private sector has failed to provide a value for money or a better service.

Let's keep health workers in the NHS

Stop the cuts

Amicus recognises the government's unprecedented funding of the health service and through Agenda for Change it has provided tens thousands of staff with the financial reward and recognition they deserve.

But up and down the country Health Trusts have run up huge budget deficits and questions need to be asked about where all the money has gone. These deficits are already having a serious impact – community practitioner's caseloads are dangerously overloaded, patients are being forced to wait for treatment, wards are being closed, vacancies for front line staff are frozen and many staff have been made redundant to make up for these short falls.

Amicus says that patients and staff should not pay the price for Trust overspending. Trust executives have to be held accountable.

For details about the lobby see www.amicustheunion.org

**A meeting room for members attending the lobby has been booked at Institute of Civil Engineers,
1 Great George Street, SW1 between 10am – 5pm**

The logo for Amicus the union features a stylized red sunburst above the word "amicus" in a red, lowercase, serif font. Below "amicus" is the phrase "the union" in a smaller, red, lowercase, cursive font.

amicus
the union