



SC/ASC/03/09
 ASC Sector Cost Code 0-34-90-03

**UNISON HEALTH GROUP
 ANCILLARY & MAINTENANCE NATIONAL SECTOR COMMITTEE**

Notes of the Meeting of the Ancillary & Maintenance National Sector Committee held on Wednesday 25 November 2009 at 12 noon in Meeting Room 3.3, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9AJ.

Present: Len Hockey (Greater London), George Barron (Northern), Morag Houston (Scotland), Hugh McDyer (Wales), Pat Usher (West Midlands), Adrian O'Malley (Yorkshire & Humberside), Dave Griffiths (Maintenance Co-optee)

Staff: Dave Godson (Committee Secretary), Kevin Russell (Committee Administrator)

AGENDA

<u>No</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action/ Responsibility</u>
1	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Sam Godfrey (East Midlands) and Kath Budd (South West).	
2	Notes of the Previous Meeting The notes of the meeting held on 2 July 2009 were agreed as an accurate record.	
3	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Item 3 of the 2 July 2009 sector meeting notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The committee was informed that a review of National Recruitment and Retention Premia (RRP) will commence next year, with a view to reaching a conclusion by the end of 2010 and implementation of any new arrangements from April 2011. The terms of reference for the review 	

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	<p>will be distributed as soon as they are finalised. However, scope remains for local cases to be made for justifying RRP's and jointly agreed guidance on the use of RRP's has recently been published on the NHS Employers website at www.nhsemployers.org</p> <p>ii) Adrian O'Malley agreed to forward details of local apprenticeship arrangements to Dave Godson</p> <p>iii) It was reported that the Apprenticeship Steering Group continues to meet. However, influence afforded to staff side has been unsatisfactory and at one point staff side was on the brink of pulling out of the group. Nonetheless, staff side continues to push for appropriate guidance to go out that advocates an employed model and funding in line with Annex U of the Agenda for Change Handbook.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under item 8, it was emphasised that future meetings would be held in a room capable of linking to video conference facilities around the country. Committee members were encouraged to consider taking up the opportunity to save time and costs. Any member who wishes to participate through video conferencing should contact Kevin Russell (k.russell@unison.co.uk) to arrange room booking. 	<p>DG</p> <p>AO</p>
4	<p>Motions for Health Conference 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee agreed a motion from the sector to Health Conference 2010 that links the successful Cleaners Conference held in November with further steps to advance the research of Stephanie Dancer concerning the cost and patient care benefits of employing cleaners, combined with ensuring the demands of the role are reflected in pay. • Pat Usher agreed to act as a sector delegate to the conference and Dave Godson will distribute an e-mail to sector members asking for any further expressions of interest in attending. • It was agreed that the case would be made for a Cleaners Conference Focus Group, with Stephanie Dancer attending as a speaker. 	<p>HM / DG</p> <p>DG</p> <p>DG</p>

5	<p>Cleaners Conference</p> <p>The committee received a report on the Cleaners Conference held on 3 November at TUC Congress Centre, London. The event generated great media interest, 193 delegates attended the and evaluation forms received indicated that over 90% viewed the event as good or excellent. Catering was the one area where a substantial proportion of attendees were dissatisfied. The committee recorded its thanks to Kevin Russell and Angela Thomson for their work in organising the conference. The intention was stated to hold a similar event in 2010 that has a more interactive focus.</p>	
6	<p>Pay, Terms & Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee received the written presentation provided to the Service Group Executive on 18 November that summarised all pay related developments. • The committee drew particular attention to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The potentially heavy cost to low-paid workers of registration for the Independent Safeguarding Authority; ii) Cost saving measures such as leave purchase schemes and reduced hours that are under discussion at local trusts in anticipation of savings required over coming years. 	
7	<p>Privatisation</p> <p>The committee received the following regional reports from the sector reps present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater London – The Health Care Commission has indicated that four wards at Whipps Cross Hospital have failed inspection, raising the prospect of an improvement notice. The ancillary contract held by Initial is in last year, so pressure will be raised to bring services back in-house; • Northern - Few ancillary jobs have been outsourced in the region; • Scotland – No new developments since the Scottish Minister for Health announced that cleaning and portering contracts will not be outsourced; • Wales – UNISON has enjoyed immense access to put its case to Health Minister Edwina Hart and outsourcing has been curtailed by the Welsh Assembly. However, UNISON is aware that developments at Westminster could have a major impact on Wales and gains will need defending. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Midlands – Phase 3 of a Private Finance Initiative hospital is coming into force and there are fears that cleaning / portering services will be outsourced when the current contract expires in May 2011. Yorkshire & Humberside – Around 300-400 staff at the Wakefield branch have been transferred to Balfour Beatty. The union has local recognition. <p>[Subsequent to the meeting, a report was received from East Midlands stating that Medirest lost the soft facilities management contract at Derby Royal Infirmary but it has passed to Initial.</p> <p>It was noted that the Foundation Trust Network had found that in-house services gave trusts flexibility and better control of costs. A full outline of the findings has now been sent out to branches in a circular.</p>	
8	<p>Membership, Recruitment and Retention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee received graphs showing quarterly joining figures for the ancillary sector as a whole and the catering, cleaning and portering groups within it. The figures showed an upward trend, driven heavily by catering joiners. Once membership data cleansing is complete early next year, the committee will receive membership data. The committee considered the proposed text for the next edition of the Ancillary Matters Newsletter. The committee agreed to raise the problem of failure to notify branches when members join on-line. It was reported that the recruitment leaflet targeted on catering, cleaning and portering staff is expected to be available at the start of next year. 	DG
7	<p>Sector Budget</p> <p>The latest figures on the sector budget were not available. However, it was reported that the case had been successfully argued for a larger sector budget on the basis of new campaigning work, such as the sector newsletter.</p>	
8	<p>Future Meetings</p> <p>The committee noted that its next two meeting will take place on 11 February 2010 and 23 June 2010. All meetings will take place from 12 noon at Mabledon Place.in Meeting Room 3.3, which allows for delegates to participate through video conferencing.</p>	

<p>9</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The committee noted that places are available for any sector member wishing to attend a Healthcare Associated Infections conference in London on 18 February 2010. Any member interested should contact Dave Godson (d.godson@unison.co.uk)</p> <p>The committee received a report on the progress of the Structures Review in the wake of the rule change approved by National Delegate Conference. The Health Service Group Executive has agreed in principle to a restructuring that will see the current sector committees changed to occupational groups. It is proposed that the Ancillary Sector joins with the Administrative Sector to form an Operational Services Occupational Group on the basis that they represent similar band 1-4 staff facing similar issues. It is intended that Occupational Networks will represent the interest of particular sets of members within the group. An interim decision was made to press ahead with sector elections as normal next year. However, after the first year, phased changes are liable to be introduced that may include a 24-member Operational Services Group.</p>	<p>All reps</p>
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