

# unite Executive Council Elections

## Amicus Section—Health Sector



*Challenging Patricia Hewitt on plans to privatise primary care, July 2006*

### These elections matter.

Unite is a mainly private sector union, with Health members in a small minority. On the new Executive Council—the ruling body of the Union—there will be only two Health representatives, out of eighty people in total.

We don't even know what rights the Health sector of the union will have until the new rule book is agreed.

The danger is that the interests of our members in Health (and in our professional groups such as the CPHVA) will be overlooked in a large general union.

It is essential that we elect Executive Council members who are strong, assertive and experienced advocates for our members in Health.

## Why we're voting for Gill George

"Gill's worked incredibly hard to save my job. She's the best Workplace rep I could have had."

**Saw Ean Lee, District Nurse**

"Gill's been ahead of the game in working out the attacks on the NHS. She's the sort of proactive person we need back on the Executive."

**Sue Ghany, Biomedical Scientist**

"Gill has represented Health Sector members extremely well. I shall be voting for her to continue representing us."

**Ruth Bradshaw,  
Medical Laboratory Assistant,  
National Blood Service**

"Gill's greatest strength on the National Executive is she stands by her principles. She has been unwavering in her support for our members."

**Janet Moir, CPHVA (outgoing NEC member)**

"Gill is a dedicated and hard-working Executive member. She has been an excellent advocate for the whole health sector, raising issues relevant to health care science, nursing, allied health professions, estates and maintenance as well as the community services and speech therapy.

She has gone to great lengths to listen and understand the different agenda in Scotland where health is devolved to the Scottish Parliament."

**Helen McFarlane, Senior Rep, NHS Scotland**

"Gill stopped our Department being out-sourced twice—she did a really good job."

**Lyndon Mardon, Estates and Facilities**

Gill is happy to attend CPHVA or Unite meetings to explain why she is standing, to answer questions, and to discuss members' concerns. To get in touch e-mail her at [gill@ghg.me.uk](mailto:gill@ghg.me.uk) or ring her on (020) 7502 6905.

For more information see the websites [gillgeorge.wordpress.com](http://gillgeorge.wordpress.com) and [www.uniteneclections.com](http://www.uniteneclections.com).

## Gill's record

**Gill believes she has made a difference as a member of the Amicus NEC — and that she can continue to do so on the new Unite Executive.**

As a Speech and Language Therapist working with children with special needs, Gill understands the pressures health workers face. She is the Senior Unite Rep in her Trust, representing members from Estates to the CPHVA. As Staff Side Secretary, she leads Trust unions in joint working.

As a founding signatory of *'Keep Our NHS Public'*, she set up a successful local group. She speaks at public meetings to defend the NHS up and down the country. She spoke at the 2007 TUC in defence of the NHS.

As an active member of the Health Sector National Committee, she has drafted Union responses to Government consultations.

On the Amicus NEC, Gill has ensured Health issues are not ignored. She successfully initiated:

- Affiliation and support for *'Keep Our NHS Public'*.
- An emergency motion to the TUC opposing Commissioning a Patient-Led NHS—forcing the Government into a significant retreat.
- Alerting the Union to secret Government plans to privatise primary care, leading to the formation of *'NHS Together'*
- Setting defence of the NHS as a campaign priority for the whole Union in 2008.
- Defending our professional organisations when moves were made to close them down.

## Needed: A Union that puts its members first

**Government policies introducing 'the market' to healthcare threaten us all.**

In primary care, we're seeing a steady drift towards out-sourcing—through the commissioner-provider split, 'arms length management' and 'autonomous provider organisations', and increasing talk of social enterprise companies or out-and-out privatisation.

In the acute sector, the centralisation and privatisation of pathology services are now a growing threat. Many of our members face job insecurity.

In England in the last two years, we've lost 26,000 NHS jobs. We now have increased workloads and increased stress. Job satisfaction has plummeted. Reorganisation has become a way of life. And we've been landed with a pay award less than half the rate of inflation.

**Why on earth has our Union decided that our priority is 'two years peace for Gordon Brown'? This makes no sense at all.**

Frank Wood is also standing for election to the new Unite Executive.

Frank is a strong candidate. He is Chair of the London Health Sector Committee, and a leading member of the Health Sector National Committee. He is Chair of the Joint Staff Committee in his Trust.

Frank is an activist and a campaigner. He is Chair of his local 'Keep Our NHS Public' group, and has played a key role in building a joint campaign of public sector unions, local activists and mental health groups, working together to defend desperately needed mental health services. Frank has a long history of opposing privatisation of the NHS.

Frank believes the NHS should be a good employer. Instead, we are overworked, facing re-organisation, redundancy or transfer, disadvantaged and abused.

Frank wants a Union that engages with its members in Health, works for those members—and that will challenge the Government when necessary.

## Frank Wood

