

JOINT PROTOCOL FOR HEALTH UNIONS AND STAFF ASSOCIATIONS WORKING TOGETHER ON THE PENSIONS CAMPAIGN

The Joint Union Pension Campaign Group is a campaign alliance which brings together all of the health service unions and staff associations, together with the TUC.

OBJECTIVES

The goals of the alliance are to:

- Raise awareness among NHS staff and the public about the nature and scale of attacks on the NHS Pension Scheme;
- Organise co-ordinated activity among members that demonstrates opposition to the proposed changes;
- Press for genuine negotiations on the future of the NHS Pension Scheme.

To fulfil these goals, the campaign group recognises that union and staff association representatives and officials should work together at national, regional and local level in accordance with the following principles.

PRINCIPLES

The parties jointly commit to:

- Achieving a successful outcome to the pensions campaign;
- Build the campaign locally, including forging links with other parts of the community where appropriate;
- Co-ordinating work and activities across all health unions and staff associations as far as possible;
- Co-ordinating activities with other public sector workers campaigning against proposed changes to their pension scheme as far as possible;
- Provide resources in support of campaign activity;
- Operate in a transparent manner that ensures a “no surprises” culture;
- Engage in ongoing dialogue and exchange of views, including face-to-face meetings and e-mail exchanges;
- Establish joint workplace meetings and events where appropriate;
- Not engage in any activity that is critical of the goals of the campaign or fails to respect the position of individual unions / staff associations;
- It is the employer’s responsibility to provide emergency cover when industrial action takes place. Those health trade unions taking industrial should engage with employers when they seek to discuss levels of cover to ensure contingency plans are in place. However, we should seek to work collaboratively as a staff side at all levels to share information and ensure safe and effective communication systems on this issue are in place.

TUC

**PENSIONS
JUSTICE**

