

SHA Central Council Report - Diane Jones

I was elected a member of the Central Council of the SHA representing the North East branch in January 2018.

I attended the SHA AGM on 17th March 2018 and was elected one of four Vice-Chairs of the organisation.

A Difficult and Challenging Year

In June 2018 I was asked to be a member of a 3-member disciplinary panel in relation to the SHA Director.

This involved reading the bundle of evidence in advance and 2 hearing days in July, one in Crewe and one in Leeds. Andy Thompson, another Vice-chair, was chair of the panel. The other panel member and I took verbatim notes of the hearing and we typed these up, shared drafts with the Panel Chair, who ultimately reached agreement on the notes of the proceedings with the Director's representative. (Quite a laborious process...)

The Director appealed against the decision of the panel. An appeal hearing took place in October 2018, and the decision of the original panel was upheld.

Negotiations are continuing between the Director's representative and the SHA Executive.

Interim reports on the process have been made to Central Council meetings and minutes are available online – see links below.

Policy Work

There have been continuing efforts to ensure that the SHA resolution unanimously agreed at Labour Party conference 2017 is embedded in party policy, and that policy includes abolition of HSC Act 2012, scrapping of STPs or ICPs, and the end of PFI and privatisation.

Vice Chair Role - Liaison with Patient Organisations and Labour Movement

At the June Central Council meeting I was allocated the responsibility of leading on this vice-chair role. (See 'strategic development priorities' in Chairs Report) This relates to establishing and enhancing structures and process for liaison (not conducting all the liaison personally!) at various levels within the Labour Party as well as with Unions and various patient organisations. I produced an outline plan for this work. Progress will depend on other aspects of the strategic development priorities.

Strategic Development Priorities

Work planned on the strategic development priorities has unfortunately been severely constrained by the time-consuming distraction of the ongoing disciplinary process, as well as by ill-health of the secretary and of the vice-chair responsible for Website Review and Development, and for the Governance Review.

Governance Review

I have offered to be a member of the governance review group (referred to in item 3 Chair's Review in the minutes of November CC meeting.) This will revisit and build upon the Clarke Review which was carried out in 2014 but never implemented. (see Call to Action below)

Other areas of activity

I have taken an active part in an SHA Membership recruitment drive, promoting membership through, for example, Keep our NHS Public and other networks, and I understand that there has been a significant increase in membership in the North East branch.

I've done some posting on the SHA Facebook page, as well as a lot of 'sharing' and retweeting from the Twitter account.

Relevant links

Minutes of the 9th June Central Council meeting (Click on 'Chair's report' for allocation of roles) <https://www.sohealth.co.uk/events/central-council-12/>

Minutes of the 4th August Central Council meeting (click on 'meeting in Leeds')
<https://www.sohealth.co.uk/events/central-council-14/>

Minutes of the 6th September Central Council meeting are available here
<https://www.sohealth.co.uk/2018/11/06/minutes-of-sha-central-council-meeting-september-2018>

Minutes of the 18th November Central Council meeting are available here
<https://www.sohealth.co.uk/2018/12/20/sha-central-council-minutes-10-11-18-london/>

Call for Action for a democratically accountable, membership led SHA April 2014
<https://www.sohealth.co.uk/2018/11/06/review-of-sha-governance/>

Governance and Constitutional Review of the SHA Report and recommendations of the Governance and Constitutional Review Group ('Clarke Review') (2014)
<https://www.sohealth.co.uk/the-socialist-health-association/legal-and-political-note/governance-constitutional-review-sha>

Diane Jones
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