

# Candidates' details

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION 2023**

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**Name:** Caroline Bedale

**KONP or full affiliate group:** Socialist Health Association

**Length of Membership of KONP:** About 7 years

**Relevant background, experience, skills, political & trade union allegiances and activities in pursuit of the aims of KONP:**

As a retired NHS worker, UNISON activist and socialist, I deplore the Tories' attacks on the NHS and, sadly, the weak political opposition to them. Years of austerity and support for parasitic private sector profiteers left the NHS poorly equipped to fight covid, with billions wasted on contracts to cronies. Failures to address staffing shortages, waiting lists, no parity of esteem for mental health services, growing health inequalities and falling life expectancy, especially for people from black and minority ethnic heritage, exacerbated the crisis and the dreadful toll on people's lives. Ignoring the real problems of social care – that many care homes and domiciliary services are owned by companies answerable to shareholders not service users – Tories slashed local authorities' budgets so they cannot meet people's needs.

I worked in health promotion (workplace health, mental health) and strongly support more investment in public health and preventive services, but not at the expense of acute services. As a UNISON steward, health and safety rep, education officer and branch secretary I represented, trained and fought for members for over 30 years; I was a member of UNISON's national Health Committee during the Agenda for Change negotiations. As a Labour Party member I am also active in the Socialist Health Association.

In Greater Manchester KONP and KONP ICS Working Group I have worked with others to collate and disseminate information about Integrated Care Systems. I am willing to take on more work on the Executive to assist KONP's campaign to rebuild the NHS.

**What I see as the key priorities for KONP in the coming year and if elected, how I intend to help KONP pursue these:**

KONP's campaign to rebuild the NHS is on the right track. The NHS needs immediate capital investment to repair dangerous, crumbling buildings, to build genuinely new facilities, and for renewal of equipment; and revenue to pay all staff a decent salary and improve working conditions so as to retain those with experience and to recruit new staff. I am particularly interested in efforts to remove the private sector not just from providing clinical and non-clinical services but also from controlling the management and data systems running the NHS. That is an important part of the work of the ICS working group, which I would like to continue.

We need to persuade people that this campaign to rebuild the NHS can be achieved. Too many people believe the lie that 'there is no money'. The weak resistance of the Labour Party nationally to the establishment of Integrated Care Systems, and the support for the private sector to 'fill gaps' in NHS provision, without acknowledging how damaging this is for the NHS, are additional hurdles that KONP has to overcome.

With a General Election likely within a year or so, there will be opportunities for KONP to intervene in discussions while maintaining its political non-alignment.

I am willing to offer to speak at meetings (in person and by zoom) and to help to write campaign materials. As the link person between KONP and the Socialist Health Association I know the importance of working with other organisations, building on our common aims.

**Declaration of any relevant commercial or charitable interests:**

I'm not sure if these are relevant:

Director of Greater Manchester Hazards Centre Ltd: health and safety at work advice, information and campaigning

Trustee of Greater Manchester Asbestos Victims Support Group: a charity set up by GMHC to work specifically on providing benefits and compensation advice to people with asbestos related diseases and to campaign against the use and long term toll of asbestos.

Trustee of North West Hazards Trust: a charity set up mainly by GMHC to look for funding for health and safety and environmental information and campaigning projects and work.

**Name:** Alia Butt

**KONP or full affiliate group:** NHS Staff Voices

**Length of Membership of KONP:** 3 years

**Relevant background, experience, skills, political & trade union allegiances and activities in pursuit of the aims of KONP:**

I have worked in the NHS for over 12 years and witnessed the change for the worse. Since 2019, I have been campaigning for its restoration and against the privatisation that is bleeding it dry. Recently, my work in and around the NHS has meant less time for campaigning but I aim to get back into communication with other activists in order to find more ways of building the movement in favour of a publicly owned NHS.

I have been working in mental health for years and recently working in adult acute inpatient services once again which has meant for more awareness of the repercussions of violent government policy in and around the NHS. I wish to continue dedicating that energy towards KONP activism, and feel being part of the EC will allow me to be better informed and more useful. I give regular interviews to various news and media outlets, for example LBC, timesradio, talkradio, and the BBC. I am now being asked to speak about mental health in general, as a professional. This is a personal achievement, but I feel it is strengthening my competence and confidence and furthering my reach as a professional and a political activist.

**What you see as the key priorities for KONP in the coming year and if elected, how you intend to help KONP pursue these:**

I am increasingly worried about the effects of privatisation and commercialised tendering, and the problems to be introduced by several reforms of the NHS. I worry about staff – all of us are struggling with underfunding and lack of staff and we will be exponentially impacted by the deregulation of professions and further dismantling of key services. I am of course most concerned with the existence of an NHS free at the point of use – more and more people are resorting to use of private healthcare as NHS waiting lists lengthen, but many others go without. The government are creating more crisis in the NHS and pushing more focus on the need for privatisation. The crisis created by the government and exacerbated by the covid crisis has meant more people dying from neglectful healthcare and now staff are being blamed. All of this must be countered. I think KONP's priorities should continue to be the counteracting of this, and helping the public better understand the government's activity surrounding the NHS as it already has been. I feel we need to bring more awareness to the deterioration of services, particularly mental health services (a passion of mine) which have been massively whittled down - a significant indication of the government's lack of care for the public. I am working with multiple campaigns to bring attention to the rabid racism that is at the forefront of the current government's rhetoric and building ties with groups like 'patients not passports', 'medact' and 'migrants organise'.

**Name:** Candy Gregory

**KONP or full affiliate group:** Save Our NHS in Kent

**Length of Membership of KONP:** 6 years.

**Relevant background, experience, skills, political & trade union allegiances and activities in pursuit of the aims of KONP:**

I worked as an RN since 1977 & retired a few weeks ago after transferring to the Covid Temp Register to help with the vaccine roll out.

I'm an RCN & Unite Community member & joined the Green Party after being victim to Starmer's purge.

I've co-organised fundraising events relevant to health causes eg Judicial review re the local stroke unit, rally against sewage discharge, frequent Save our NHS in Kent rallies & conferences, refugee issues at Manston re overcrowding, poor conditions & diphtheria spread.

We hold regular street stalls, mostly in Thanet towns with flyers, merchandise & discussions with locals on the ongoing NHS issues

**What I see as the key priorities for KONP in the coming year and if elected, how I intend to help KONP pursue these:**

I would expect to attend meetings either in person or virtually. Listening & contributing where appropriate.

Encouraging people to watch the Covid 19 Inquiry. The first module has finished but reinforced what we know but the public may not.

Support for workers by attendance on picket lines {I've been on RCN, Jnr Drs, consultant, RMT, ASLEF, CWU over the past year}

My own thoughts are the need to educate the public & HCPs on the issues affecting the NHS that impact the inability of workers to provide adequate & safe patient care.

I'd like to see events & roadshows that encourage good attendance by those who are unaware of privatisation, corruption, staff shortages etc.

**Declaration of any relevant commercial or charitable interests:**

I volunteer at the local RSPCA every Sunday morning.

**Name:** Colin Hutchinson

**KONP or full affiliate group:** Doctors for the NHS

**Length of Membership of KONP:** Eight years

**Relevant background, experience, skills, political & trade union allegiances and activities in pursuit of the aims of KONP:**

I worked as an eye surgeon in the NHS until retirement in 2015. I have been Chair of Doctors for the NHS (DFNHS) since 2017. "Service not profit" is our strapline. As DFNHS is a Full Affiliate Group, I have attended a majority of KONP Steering Group meetings over the past five years, to try and make sure the two organisations complement one another in their actions. I have repeatedly urged DFNHS members to make contact with their local KONP groups and get involved with their activities. My contributions to the DFNHS newsletter are accessible through the association's website. I have been a speaker at events organised by KONP branches and other campaigning groups.

In 2018 I joined with Prof Sue Richards, Prof Allyson Pollock and others in pursuing a judicial review against the Government's plan to introduce Accountable Care Organisations to the English NHS without primary legislation. KONP members were generous in their support. The result was that the changes to Integrated Care Systems were delayed for several years and the opportunity given to full parliamentary scrutiny and greater media attention: ICSs were eventually implemented.

In 2018 I was elected as a Labour councillor to Calderdale Council, where I am a member of various scrutiny committees considering plans for reconfiguration of hospital and community services, and try to ensure that the new Integrated Care System in West Yorkshire acts in the best interest of local people. I am a member of Unite Retired Members Branch.

**What I see as the key priorities for KONP in the coming year and if elected, how I intend to help KONP pursue these:**

Ensure the NHS is made the key issue in the next general election. The NHS has been wounded, but is not incurable:

- a. Help the public, politicians and the media understand that provision of a social health system is not too big and complex to understand or deliver. At heart, it is a very simple concept: turning it into a market has made it appear so complicated and secretive.
- b. Back this up with a strong evidence base supporting the economic case for the founding principles of the NHS. It is an economic imperative as well as a moral imperative.
- c. Develop tiered, linked messaging, in plain language. First catch the attention and then encourage exploration of issues, backed up with links to the evidence to support our arguments:
  - i. Slogans
  - ii. Sound bites
  - iii. Short articles
  - iv. Pamphlet-length reviews of specific topics

- v. Library of references to support these messages
- d. Activate links that have been forged with organisations representing patients' interests; trade unions; professional bodies within and surrounding the NHS (including social workers and local government); political parties (members, politicians and candidates); and faith organisations. Offer to provide speakers for meetings, printed material and social media resources.
- e. Encourage and support KONP local groups to use local issues to illustrate the arguments that KONP is making at national level
  - i. Refresh links with local organisations as in (d)
  - ii. Distribute national messaging
  - iii. Explore local press and radio, who are often on the lookout for material

**Declaration of any relevant commercial or charitable interests:**

Chair of Doctors for the NHS; Councillor for Skircoat Ward, Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (Labour Party); member of Unite.



**Name:** Louise Irvine

**KONP or full affiliate group:** Lewisham Save our NHS

**Length of Membership of KONP:** 17 years

**Relevant background, experience, skills, political & trade union allegiances and activities in pursuit of the aims of KONP:**

I've been on KONP EC for several years; I am chair of the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign, now called Lewisham Save our NHS; I'm a retired GP though still doing some locum work in general practice; I'm a member of Doctors in Unite and the BMA. In recent years I was involved in the Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust's panel to investigate the operation of migrant charges; the KONP People's Covid Inquiry and the judicial review to try to stop the Centene takeover of GP practices.

**What I see as the key priorities for KONP in the coming year and if elected, how I intend to help KONP pursue these:**

The coming winter will once again be devastating for the NHS, its patients and staff: we must prioritise campaigning locally and nationally to highlight the reasons for the crisis, the very real risks of NHS collapse, and the relevance of our demands for increased funding, decent pay for NHS staff, and opposition to privatisation.

KONP should prioritise building and supporting local groups to take on local issues. For example holding ICBs to account and challenging privatisation or cuts to services, including hospital, mental health, GP or community services.

Collaboration will be key to maximizing our impact. We should continue our relationships with like-minded organisations such as We Own It, trade unions and NHS staff groups, both through Health Campaigns Together, which is now part of KONP, and with the 50+ groups and unions within SOSNHS. In the coming election year the NHS will inevitably be an election issue again, so KONP should use the opportunity to raise awareness of the reasons and solutions to the NHS crisis, and lessons from the Covid pandemic. KONP needs to help build a strong grass roots movement involving communities and NHS staff to demand the next government properly funds the NHS (including pay), and commits to ending privatisation and rebuilding the NHS as a high quality public service.

KONP should continue to support other campaigns such as End Social Care Disgrace, opposition to migrant health charges and privatisation of NHS data. This will be achieved through ongoing collaboration with other organisations who lead these campaigns.

**Declaration of any relevant commercial or charitable interests:**

No relevant commercial or charitable interests.

**Name:** Ron Mendel

**KONP or full affiliate group:** Bristol Protect Our NHS

**Length of Membership of KONP:** 15 years

**Relevant background, experience, skills, political & trade union allegiances and activities in pursuit of the aims of KONP:**

I am retired lecturer from the University of Northampton, where I served as branch chair or secretary in the University College Union (UCU) for 17 years. I retain my membership in the UCU branch as Honorary President. I also was President of the Northampton and District Trades Council from 2003-2018. In that role I helped to organise public meetings, stalls, marches and rallies against both the national and local government's austerity measures. In addition, I chaired a public meeting, sponsored by the Northampton General Hospital UNISON branch, at which John Lister spoke about Foundation Trust Hospitals; organised actions against the 2012 NHS bill; and participated in numerous conferences and rallies called by KONP.

Since moving to Bristol in 2018 I have been active in Protect Our NHS (PoNHS) and recently have assumed the role of convenor of the group . PoNHS has consistently campaigned against both privatisation and rationing of health care. It worked tirelessly against the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill in 2021 and mobilised members to participate in the Britain is Broken march and rally and the NHS SOS Conference in 2022. Currently PoNHS is conducting a postcard campaign aimed at MPs to take action to address the crisis of the NHS, caused by chronic underfunding and under-resourcing.

I have the relevant organisational and communications skills as well as an ability to think strategically, as witnessed by my activist roles in Northampton and Bristol. In addition, I can work with others who are committed to the same aims and not be 'obsessed' with my own views on an issue.

**What I see as the key priorities for KONP in the coming year and if elected, how I intend to help KONP pursue these:**

The three key priorities are:

1. Influencing the Opposition parties to develop a programme to restore the NHS
2. Raising Public Awareness of how the Current NHS Crisis makes it easier for Privatisation to Expand
3. Working with like-minded Campaign groups such as We Own It, the SHA and Just Treatment and Medact/Patients not Passports

It would be presumptuous for me to indicate any new directions on these priorities, for KONP already recognises the importance of them. However, I would suggest the following in the order of the priorities listed above:

- To date KONP has targeted the Health Spokespersons of the Opposition parties, but it could be beneficial also to approach members of the Health select committee to initiate a dialogue about how to restore the NHS so that it can fully fulfil its founding principles. Also bespoke seminars with MPs and local councillors might be useful. the

- Moreover, I would expand the postcard campaigns, launched by some affiliates, to make this initiative a national KONP one.
- Help affiliates to organise meetings with local trades councils unions and constituency labour parties that focus on the dangers of privatisation and what is required to restore the NHS
- Greater coordination between the KONP nationally with the local affiliates. There is a tendency understandably for the latter to pursue their own 'agendas'. However, in light of the challenges KONP and the NHS are facing, it is imperative that local affiliates buy into KONP's initiatives. Perhaps more directive communication between the co-chairs and designated contact persons of the local affiliates might be useful.
- Closer ties with other campaign groups and NHS unions to work towards developing common activities to maximise the effectiveness of KONP. These could take the form of online events, petitions, publicity actions, protests, etc.

**Declaration of any relevant commercial or charitable interests:**

Currently I am a trustee of Salaam Shalom in Bristol

**Name:** Debby Monkhouse

**KONP or full affiliate group:** Defend Dorset NHS

**Length of Membership of KONP:** 6 years

**Relevant background, experience, skills, political & trade union allegiances and activities in pursuit of the aims of KONP:**

I have co ordinated campaigns in Dorset to try to save Poole A&E, Maternity and Paediatrics and the Swanage based Purbeck Paramedic Car. Although we were not successful in the former we have delayed closure of these services and secured the retention of Dorset County Hospital Maternity and Paediatrics, which was also under threat. We were successful with the latter campaign.

The first campaign involved securing referral by Dorset County Council of the plans to close services to the Secretary of State, this involved a year of lobbying health scrutiny, demonstrations and press. Once the referral was secured we also made our own 99 page submission to the Independent Review Panel. The first campaign also involved securing, fundraising and giving witness statements at a Judicial Review, which got as far as the Court of Appeal.

The second campaign involved persuading the Town Council to set up a Health Working Party that became a lobbying body, and a huge community based campaign involving a community booklet and song, which was featured on BBC South Today a number of times and in local print and broadcast media.

I'm a Labour Town Councillor in my 60's In my 20's I was a NALGO shop steward.

**What I see as the key priorities for KONP in the coming year and if elected, how I intend to help KONP pursue these:**

I have been on KONP EC for the last term and have really appreciated all the work that is done. I have used the bulk of my spare time to co ordinate local battles to save services here in Dorset, and I have also very much valued the opportunities to discuss and plan taking whatever steps can be taken to influence policy nationally and promote the truth about what is happening to the NHS, and indeed Social Care.

I feel KONP's activity IS the essential voice for the NHS, helping to mobilise others to take part in the ongoing fight for a properly funded, publicly provided, NHS, free at the point of use to all in need.

**Declaration of any relevant commercial or charitable interests:**

None

**Name:** Sally Ruane

**KONP or full affiliate group:** Save Our NHS Leicestershire (and before that Campaign Against NHS Privatization)

**Length of Membership of KONP:** 17 years

**Relevant background, experience, skills, political & trade union allegiances and activities in pursuit of the aims of KONP:**

I have been campaigning on health policy since 2006 and co-founded Leicester's original NHS campaign group (called Keep Our NHS Public) in July 2006. I have been on the steering committees of our groups since then, co-managing the evolution of the original into a larger group, rebranded Campaign Against NHS Privatization (CANP) in 2010. This transition came about with the purpose of widening the activist base in order to combat the Lansley reforms. We (CANP) co-founded the broader Save Our NHS Leicestershire (affiliated initially to Health Campaigns Together and more recently to KONP) in 2018 after working with other activists to save the East Midlands Children's Heart Centre. Through these developments, the numbers of Leicester/shire individuals and organisations working together to campaign has significantly increased in the past 15 years and I have become more skilled at networking/ managing alliances across different groupings. Amongst other things, we have campaigned around APMS contracts in primary care, the 2011 Health and Social Care Bill, NHS underfunding, Sustainability and Transformation Plans, Integrated Care Systems and the 2021 Health and Care Bill, improved pay for NHS staff, hospital bed capacity and reconfiguration proposals for local acute and maternity hospital services. In this campaigning, I and other campaigners have engaged actively with local trade union branches, NHS leads and local councillors especially through the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Since 2002, I have been my workplace's University and College Union's delegate to Leicester and District Trades Union Council and County Association which actively supports our health campaigning activities.

My health campaigning is informed by knowledge acquired through my research and teaching as a health policy academic at De Montfort University, Leicester, where I have worked for over 30 years. I have research interests in privatisation and service reconfiguration.

I joined KONP in 2006, have been a Steering Group delegate for several years and have served on the KONP Executive for the past two years.

**What I see as the key priorities for KONP in the coming year and if elected, how I intend to help KONP pursue these:**

- Developing and implementing a strategy for campaigning and lobbying in the run-up to the General Election expected in 2024
- Finding additional ways of influencing the Labour Party
- Maintaining and disseminating a strong narrative surrounding the causes and solutions of the NHS' current problems
- Diversifying the body of KONP activists including young people and members of ethnically minoritised communities

- Strengthening relationships with local affiliated groups
- Maintaining and developing further relationships with trade unions and other organisations with which we share common goals, such as through SOSNHS.

To help KONP pursue this, I would:

- Help produce written resources on capacity, cuts, privatisation and other challenges faced by the NHS
- Participate in meetings with relevant spokespeople for political parties
- Share news stories of relevance to KONP campaigners
- Speak at events to highlight the policies giving rise to NHS difficulties and the problems experienced by NHS patients
- Work with other KONP members to monitor developments around the New Hospital Programme
- Work with Executive members to develop KONP' strategy and execute the wishes of the Steering Group

**Declaration of any relevant commercial or charitable interests:**

N/A

Statements of candidates elected to posts without a vote as only one individual stood for election for each available post:

**Secretary:**

**Name:** Carol Ackroyd

**KONP or full affiliate group:** Hackney

**Length of Membership of KONP:** since 2013

**Relevant background, experience, skills, political & trade union allegiances and activities in pursuit of the aims of KONP:**

**Background:** I'm secretary of Hackney KONP. I've been a member of KONP's Steering Group since 2014 and on the EC since December 2015. I'm retired from paid work in various NHS and social care services. I'm a member of Unite Community and a (very disaffected) member of the Labour Party.

**Local campaigning:** We aim to raise awareness of how the wider NHSE and Government agendas impact on local NHS services, through street stalls, questions to the ICB at Scrutiny and other meetings and motions to our local Labour CLP. I'm an active member of NELSON (North East London Save Our NHS) which brings together NHS campaigns across our ICS. Current campaigns include opposition to NHS hostile environment and migrant charges, potential sell off of NHS land and property as well as supporting staff over outsourcing and pay claims.

**KONP EC:** I'm currently Joint Secretary of KONP, with particular responsibility for minutes of SG and EC meetings. I take an active part in EC discussions and I'm the link person for and chair the KONP Integrated Care Systems (ICS) Working Group. This meets regularly to understand, analyse and produce information about evolving government policy and developments on ICSs/ICBs. This information has been an essential part of KONP campaigns.

**What I see as the key priorities for KONP in the coming year and if elected, how I intend to help KONP pursue these:**

The run up to the next general election is a critical time for our campaigning. We need to highlight the current government's actions in fragmenting and defunding the NHS, creating a staffing crisis and bringing corporates – and thereby profit motive - into the heart of NHS management and decision-making, via consultancies and links to ICB boards and committees. However current Labour policy offers little alternative. Only by mobilising the weight of public opinion and union power can we force politicians to rebuild the NHS that we want and need. I've worked with others on the EC to develop what we hope will become a set of demands that will bring together unions, campaign groups and the public to demand our politicians rebuild the NHS.

We must continue to support NHS staff in their demands for fair pay and conditions, whilst also demanding an NHS that is more responsive to patient needs, at both individual level and in terms of NHS democratic structures. This includes opposing reductions in low level treatments, migrant charges and reduced access to services, and demanding new democratic input into NHS design.

We need to maximise use of social media for our KONP campaigning while noting that some of the most passionate supporters of NHS values are older people who don't use social media and include many Tory voters; we need to consider ways to engage this wider population in demands for a rebuild NHS.



**Declaration of any relevant commercial or charitable interests: None.**

**Treasurer**

**Name:** Tone Horwood

**Which KONP or Full Affiliate group are you a member of?** PONHS Bristol

**How long have you been a member of KONP?** 8 (?) years

**Relevant background, experience, skills, political and trade union allegiances and activities in pursuit of the aims of KONP:**

Previous treasurer of British assn of Dramatherapists.

UKCP board member 3 years.

Member of PONHS for 12 years.

KONP treasurer for 4 years.

**What you see as the key priorities for KONP in the coming year and if elected, how you intend to help KONP pursue these:**

Key priorities are to both increase and broaden membership and affiliations as an increasingly solid basis for the work as we prepare for the coming election.

If re-elected as treasurer I will continue to do what I can to prioritise our income stream through memberships and affiliations along with the ongoing search for donations from both grant making trusts and union bodies.

**Declaration of any relevant commercial or charitable interests:** None.

## Co-chair

**Name:** Tony O'Sullivan

### **Which KONP or Full Affiliate group are you a member of?**

Lewisham Save Our NHS (LewSON) - Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign

### **How long have you been a member of KONP?**

Approximately since December 2014

### **Relevant background, experience, skills, political and trade union allegiances and activities in pursuit of the aims of KONP:**

**SG delegate** December 2014 – December 2015

**Co-chair** December 2015 to current

**HCT Officer (2018), vice-chair (from 2019) HCT committee member (from 2022)** rep LewSON & NHS Reinstatement Bill

**Membership:** Unite/Doctors in Unite; BMA; Labour Party July 2017; LewSON and South East London Save Our NHS liaison group.

**Experience:** NHS 40yrs, Consultant paediatrician 1993-2016 working with disabled children/families, retired 2016. Part of [Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign's](#) successful JR legal campaign.

**Work as co-chair KONP:** Since 2015, ensured improved KONP organisational reputation and internal morale and leadership role in building a strong NHS movement. We have expanded the national team. I line-manage and, with co-chair John Puntis, support the Head of Campaigns (in post since June 2018) and the team. The KONP website and social media are steadily improving. Working with the KONP EC and team, we have produced regular, good quality campaign materials and KONP-HCT national event, including several national days of action and four large demos with HCT/KONP/People's Assembly/TUC March 2017, Feb/June 2018; SOS NHS demo March 2023. I worked with Exec members and the KONP team coordinating the People's Covid Inquiry. KONP is respected through our alliance work with other organisations (health unions, SHA, We Own It, Just Treatment, Docs Not Cops). I frequently represent KONP as co-chair in [media](#) interviews; at public meetings; national demos and promote KONP positively in social media, [interviews](#), and articles **[227 words]**

### **What you see as the key priorities for KONP in the coming year and if elected, how you intend to help KONP pursue these:**

As the leading NHS campaign organisation, we must deliver multi-levelled work, with a key responsibility to raise the NHS and social care, and related issues, in the 12-15 months of the run-up to the next General election; providing a counter-narrative to Government propaganda, lobbying politicians and briefing them, providing well-researched material as reference and in social media/website posts and public materials. We have to influence public opinion and ensure politicians are under pressure on these issues over the next months. And we must build a stronger movement, capable of sustaining our campaigning beyond the next election to hold any future government's feet to the fire.

- Continue to build our membership, supporters, mailing list and to strengthen the local groups network;
- Ensure our central resource expand to deliver what is needed and that the finances are raised to support this.

- Provide evidence-based, reliable information and publicity on the website, on social media, in leaflets and briefings.
- Build strong relationships with health unions and organisations in a united front fighting for the NHS; continuing the good work we have done in and through SOS NHS (with over 55 sponsors)
- Give support to our campaigning on social care and raise at every opportunity mental health and solidarity with NHS staff in struggle).
- Ongoing lobbying and briefing MPs, the Shadow Health team, local councillors,
- Build on the work of the People's Covid Inquiry

**Declaration of any relevant commercial or charitable interests:**

None

## Co-chair

**Name:** John Puntis

**KONP or full affiliate group:** Leeds

**Length of Membership of KONP:** 12 years

### **Relevant background, experience, skills, political & trade union allegiances and activities in pursuit of the aims of KONP:**

I have been a member of KONP since 2011 at which time I set up with others the Leeds KONP group which has remained active ever since and of which I remain chair. I became a member of what is now Unite in 1972 as a medical student and remain actively involved in Doctors in Unite (DiU) as well as Doctors for the NHS. I am a delegate to Leeds Trades Council for the Unite Health Service Branch in Leeds, and a delegate from DiU to the End Social Care Disgrace steering group. I am also a member of the Socialist Health Association and the British Medical Association. I retired as a hospital consultant in 2018 but prior to that was chair of the hospital Senior Staff Committee where I attempted to hold management to account. I worked in neonatal intensive care, general paediatrics and specialist gastroenterology services, publishing extensively in these fields. I have experience in writing and public speaking, play in the PCS samba band for political demonstrations around the country and like to bring some live music to our KONP stalls in Leeds. I frequently publish on health related matters in the British Medical Journal, the Yorkshire Evening Post, Public Sector Focus, Chartist, Tribune, The Guardian, Doctors for the NHS newsletter, Berlin Left Blog and the KONP website. I am not a member of a political party. I have been on the KONP executive for six years, two as secretary and four as co-chair.

### **What I see as the key priorities for KONP in the coming year and if elected, how I intend to help KONP pursue these:**

KONP has grown in terms of numbers and influence, and the new arrangement with Health Campaigns Together as our trade union facing section has been a step forward. It is gratifying that we are more frequently being called on to comment by the media, testimony to the hard work of the national team and our visible presence on the streets. We have developed our campaigning through an increasing number of working groups producing high quality information and analysis, and the commitment and energy of our group based activists, making us the most prominent organisation campaigning for the NHS as a fully public service. The problems and priorities we now face are: 1. How do we raise funds to expand the power and reach of the organisation further? 2. How do we link up with other campaigns calling for social justice, and more effectively mobilise both the public and NHS workforce in defence of the NHS? 3. How do we increase our membership/supporter diversity? 4. How do we plan for a coming succession crisis given nearly all the EC are long retired from paid work? As we move into a pre-election campaign phase, all these issues are brought into focus in terms of how we can up our game. I don't have any easy answers but am willing to continue to devote time to KONP work as co-chair/member of the EC to help develop solutions collectively with the SG and membership in order to make us a more effective fighting force.

**Declaration of any relevant commercial or charitable interests:** None to declare