**KONP report for Doctors for the NHS AGM, October 16th 2025 – John Puntis, co-chair KONP**

February 2025 marked KONP’s 20th anniversary and a renewed commitment to campaigning for a publicly funded, provided and accountable NHS, based on its founding principles. This was marked by a rally outside parliament (<https://keepournhspublic.com/konp-month-of-action-february-2025/>) with about 50 people and short speeches from supportive campaigners and MPs including We Own It, 7 left Labour MPs, Adrian Ramsay from the Greens, independent MP Iqbal Mohammed, John McDonnel and Lord Prem Sikka. There followed a month of actions by KONP groups around the country.

The election of a Labour government last summer brought some hesitant optimism, rapidly dispelled by its pronouncements on plans for the NHS, and the November 2024 budget. The latter made clear that New Labour’s lesson that improved services and public satisfaction came from increased investment in NHS staff and facilities had not been learned. Manifesto commitments to the New Hospital Programme and reversal of outsourcing were quietly dropped and the private sector further embraced. The commitment to ‘public funding’ is now in doubt as a new wave of PFI for the new Neighbourhood Health Centres is under active consideration.

KONP membership has remained steady at a little over a thousand but the number of active groups has fallen to 46. Many of these organise local events, hold street stalls and members attend ICB, Trust, Health and Wellbeing and scrutiny committees to put questions and hold health officials to account. A recent election for KONP Executive Committee (EC) was rendered unnecessary as the number of those standing equalled the number of places on the committee. There is concern about a failure to attract a younger and more diverse demographic into membership as well as onto the EC, and ongoing discussion about succession planning. Meanwhile, regular bulletins go out to over 30 thousand contacts around twice a month, and monthly members and supporter’s meetings are held on line on the first Wednesday of each month, regularly attracting around 80 participants. We have had a successful crowdfunder campaign to lay the basis for continuing campaigning and improve our overall financial position; £20,000 was raised, and we are most grateful to all those who contributed. We have held detailed discussions about refining and refocusing our campaigning strategy now we have a Labour government that is continuing to starve the NHS of funds, including the way we toxify privatisation.

Members around the country have been active in supporting staff involved in a number of different disputes, including the outsourcing of facilities staff from the East Suffolk North Essex Foundation Trust; the eviction of NHS staff from NHS residences in Rotherham; mental health workers from the crisis team in Greater Manchester; outsourcing of MRI staff at Heatherwood hospital (Thrimly Health); elderly care services in Coventry; threatened closure of council run dementia homes in Kirklees; extension of working hours for theatre staff at Guys and Thomas’s; resident doctors striking for pay restoration; Airedale Hospital GMB strike over fair pay for workers in its SubCo.

Work to reach out to new Labour MPs and sympathetic politicians from other parties progressed in conjunction with the 99% Organisation. MP Richard Burgon supported our first meeting in the House of Commons in March, where the 99%’s report on Rebuilding the NHS was presented, with co-chair Tony O’Sullivan representing KONP on the expert panel. A series of meetings are now planned with MPs being invited to drop in, under guidance from Richard and his team. The next is in November and will explore how the proposals in the Ten Year Plan for Health stand up to scrutiny as well as highlighting the breadth and depth of privatisation in the NHS and its negative impact. Both co-chairs held a constructive meeting with Adam Ramsay, until recently the joint leader of the Green Party, and Tony O’Sullivan has addressed the Socialist Campaign Group. KONP continues to provide a steady stream of quotes and interviews for the press each month, being recognised as the main campaigning organisation for NHS services.

Working groups continue to be active, producing papers to assist campaigners, available on our website from the Data, Integrated Care System and Primary Health Care groups, etc. In addition we have produced articles critiquing Labour health policy (<https://keepournhspublic.com/labour-and-the-nhs/>) and promoted solidarity actions with Palestinian health workers (<https://keepournhspublic.com/solidarity-with-palestine/>). SubCo have also been put under the spot light and a new photo exhibition and supporting booklet produced (<https://keepournhspublic.com/campaign-resisting-subcos/>) following Sir Jim Mackey calling for a new wave of these to be set up. The Mental Health Group organised a successful conference in Norwich, and the Primary Care Group has one lined up in London for 29th November (<https://keepournhspublic.com/event/primary-care-conference/>). We remain closely involved with the End Social Care Disgrace campaign, that has a conference in Manchester on October 25th (<https://keepournhspublic.com/event/end-social-care-disgrace-national-conference/>).

KONP supported the June march in London organised by the People’s Assembly against austerity and in support of public services, with John Puntis speaking on behalf of KONP at the rally (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXBFNN66Oko>). In July, groups organised events to mark the NHS birthday with actions in Bristol, Leeds, Cambridge, Lewisham, Oxford, Lambeth, Southampton and Newcastle. We continue to build our trade union facing activities through Health Campaigns Together (<https://www.healthcampaignstogether.com/>) and published three bulletins for distribution at union conferences and elsewhere. The Morning Star produced a four-page wrap-around from KONP for the Labour Party conference, where we also supported the Liverpool Women’s Hospital Campaign march for the NHS. The focus was the damage being done to the NHS by Labour, highlighting a potential 100,000 job losses resulting from cuts in spending forced upon Integrated Care Boards and savings demanded of Trusts. John Puntis spoke for KONP at the rally after the march and also at a Socialist Health Association fringe meeting.

KONP continues to campaign vigorously for the NHS, recognising the many challenges that face campaigners. We are determined to expand our influence with MPs and policy makers as well as strengthening and building local groups, influencing public opinion and supporting the struggles of health workers, many of whom remain both poorly paid and under huge pressure. Through our SOS NHS coalition (<https://sosnhs.co.uk/>) we are working to strengthen a broad alliance of trade unions and campaign groups (including Just Treatment, We Own It, 99% Organisation, EveryDoctor, the Socialist Health Association, NHS Federation, People’s Assembly, Doctors for the NHS, Doctors in Unite, Medact, etc) and have recently held a second strategy conference around more effective and joined up campaigning. KONP also acknowledges its long association with Doctors for the NHS, our common values, and its important contribution to defending a public NHS over many years.

John Puntis, co-chair KONP; 13th October, 2025