



## SHA 2025

***Fighting for the restoration of the NHS – health for all – in solidarity!***



**From picket lines, public meetings, festivals and Palestine – Thank YOU for shaping the SHA!**

*Picture frames above consist of 15 photos of SHA events, stalls, strike pickets, demonstrations, public meetings and forums.*



## **"Wes Streeting puts more effort into insulting doctors than fixing the NHS"**

**Jatinder Hayre, SHA Vice-chair – Metro**

"When I step into A&E, it's like operating in a war zone. Doctors move constantly between crises, putting out one fire only to be pulled towards the next. Decisions are made quickly, often with incomplete information, because there is no time to wait for ideal conditions that never arrive. Instead, poor working conditions, unstable contracts with worsening terms, mass unemployment and pay that has been systematically hollowed out since 2008 mean that many of us now earn less in real terms than doctors at the same stage did over a decade ago...And for that, we've been made public enemy number one by Health Secretary Wes Streeting. Instead of negotiating fairly, we feel he's thrown fuel on the fire." Read in full, [here](#).

## **Congratulations, Andrea Egan!**

**Massive congratulations Andrea** from SHA on your election as General Secretary of Unison. Looking forward to working with you and Unison!



## **Statement On The Use Of PFI To Fund Neighbourhood Health Centres**

**"The Socialist Health Association strongly opposes the government's plans to reintroduce Private Finance Initiative (PFI) – style schemes to fund NHS Neighbourhood Health Centres.** The original PFI model has left our health service burdened with decades of costly repayments that drain resources from patient care. NHS trusts continue to make extortionate payments to private companies for buildings that would have cost a fraction of the price through traditional public financing. We still owe £44 billion and on average, trusts are repaying private investors at an average rate of roughly 6 times the original investment – as high as 27 times for one trust– with the taxpayer set to fork out £80 billion in total for NHS buildings and facilities worth £13 billion." Read in full, [here](#).

## **BMA Picket Line Outside St Thomas' Hospital**

**Mark Howell – SHA London**

"Resident doctors in England, represented by the BMA, continue on strike [another five days] following the government's failure to address years of pay erosion and a deepening workforce crisis. Unsafe training bottlenecks, unrealistic job requirements, and collapsing real terms pay leave no alternative. SHA members joined other BMA picket lines around the country...Plenty of doctors in orange and film crews were drawing car, van and bus horns to hoot solidarity." A trainee surgeon explained his reasons for taking action – watch [here](#).

Dr Jack Fletcher, chair of the BMA's UK resident doctors committee, outlined the reasons for their industrial action in an interview with The Guardian, [here](#).



## **"Cynical and Unethical" – Labour Hub**

**Diarmaid McDonald – Director, Just Treatment – Partner with SHA in 'SOS NHS' Coalition**

"While the UK government celebrated a deal struck with the US government to avoid tariffs on pharmaceutical exports last week, the reaction from big pharma was gleeful, with industry lobbyists said to be "salivating" over the prospect of the agreement resulting in similar profit-boosting deals with countries across Europe. The full details of the deal are still unclear – the text has not been made public – and the UK announcement gave far fewer details of what the government has signed up to than the US or even pharma statements. But we know it is going to lead to the NHS having to spend billions more on medicines every year, and that money is going to come from its existing budget. This deal should come with a huge health warning. We already spend too much on medicines – and they're increasingly bad value for money." Read in full, [here](#).



Promoting health & wellbeing through socialist principles since 1930

Contact: [admin@sochealth.co.uk](mailto:admin@sochealth.co.uk)

## Saving NHS Eye Hospitals

**Mark Ladbrooke, SHA Secretary**

"The Royal College of Ophthalmologists' (RCO) is calling for an urgent review. Our local Integrated Care Board which uses NHS public funds to buy in healthcare for local people, **spent £14 million** on private cataract clinics in 2023/24. **Almost half** was diverted to shareholder profits and debt repayments.

As the Public Accounts Committee issues a damning [report on the failure to deliver reductions on NHS waiting times](#) (19 Nov 2025) we look at just one specific example where outsourcing services leads to a serious impact on the NHS's ability to prioritise and cut waiting lists in eye surgery – this is an example from one area." Read in full, [here](#).

## Model Motions

**Last Central Council meeting (11 Dec.), the following motions were passed.** Use these template motions (and letters) to take to your local CLP or TU meeting.

**Motion on Asylum** – motion reformatted as a model template, [here](#)

**Motion – Patients Before Profits – No PFI In Our NHS**

Reformatted as a model motion, [here](#).

We Own It has an excellent model letter to MPs, which you can access [here](#).

**PFI in your local hospital?** Use this leaflet template for local campaigning against PFI – download [here](#).

Example: template on the Cumberland PFI [here](#).  
Contact [admin@sochealth.co.uk](mailto:admin@sochealth.co.uk) for support.

**Motion – Campaigning for our Eye Hospitals**

– template motion to be circulated.

**Motion – Purging Palestinian Solidarity from the NHS**

– the original government press release, [here](#).

## Healthcare – Not Warfare

### A New Year's Discussion and Social

**In person only – SHA London members welcome**

**7–9 pm, Wed., 21 January 2026**

**Effra Social, 89 Effra Road, Brixton, SW2 1DF**

**Invited speakers, Bell Ribeiro–Addy MP  
and Rathi Guhadasan, SHA Chair**

Read more, [here](#).

## Millions extracted in profit from publicly funded social care –

### NHS Support Federation

SHA calls for a national care service, mirrored on the original conception of the NHS – publicly funded, publicly owned and publicly operated. The market in social care has resulted in catastrophic decline, with hopelessly inadequate regulation, de-professionalised staffing and plummeting standards, as both public and private money are syphoned into corporate profits, often via tax havens.

Recently, and most harrowing, a report from charity, 'Reclaiming Our Regional Economies' found that private care companies operating care services in three regions – the North East, South Yorkshire and the West Midlands – have extracted upwards of "**£256m in profit** between 2021 and 2024, with more than a third going to providers owned by private equity firms or companies based in tax havens." Read in full, [here](#).

**Look out for SHA's detailed report on adult social care in 2026.**

## SHA View on the Budget

**Esther Giles, SHA Treasurer**

"Capital funding through Public Private Partnerships, of whatever flavour, is ruinously expensive. Closing publicly owned surgery facilities and emergency services, replacing them by outsourced services operated for profit wastes NHS funding and degrades the standard of service delivered to patients. There is no evidence that this use of the market produces better outcomes and plenty of evidence to the contrary...In the NHS now, (politically chosen) "capital constraints" together with elective capacity, shortfalls and primary care investment backlogs, combine to usher in a new PPP/PFI model. The government is constrained only by its own political will and the real resources available in the economy. Present Treasury and austerity constraints are a political choice. Capital funding constraints are self imposed by the government and can and must be challenged. Local publicly funded and managed building schemes are likely to be much cheaper and more socially useful than the PPP equivalent. We must reverse and avoid private finance use of the NHS.

**There is no place for profit in healthcare."**

Read in full, [here](#). Read the collective statement from health groups including the SHA, [here](#).



Promoting health & wellbeing through  
socialist principles since 1930

Contact: [admin@sochealth.co.uk](mailto:admin@sochealth.co.uk)

## Support the Filton 24 Hunger Strikers

Jamie Green, SHA Cumbria

"Eight of the 'Filton 24' are said to be in "critical danger", with 5 now hospitalised. The hunger strike against their detention conditions has now entered its second month...The use of anti-terrorism powers in this case, described by Amnesty International as a "threat to expression and assembly rights for everyone" should be a serious concern to the labour movement and is nothing short of authoritarian state violence.

Labour MP John McDonnell raised a point of order in support of the imprisoned, sponsoring an early day [motion](#), calling for David Lammy to intervene.

All socialists and trade unionists must condemn such an authoritarian approach to civil resistance and protest, and show solidarity with the Filton 24. This violence and disregard for lives of workers have and will again be used against the working class. All arms manufacturing should cease and be immediately taken into democratic public ownership. Workers deserve, and must demand, a just [transition](#) away from the manufacture of weapons of war, and into industries where better jobs, livelihoods and ecology are prioritised and pursued." **Solidarity with the Filton 24!** Support resources, [here](#).

*Labour Party Conference passed a [motion](#) this year calling on the Labour government to: employ all means reasonably available to it to prevent the commission of genocide in Gaza; fully suspend the arms trade with Israel; ban trade with the illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank; apply comprehensive sanctions to put pressure on the Israeli government including a full arms embargo and ending military cooperation; take coordinated action with European and other allies to end the famine in Gaza by ensuring full access to humanitarian assistance; ensure individuals and corporations in the UK are not involved in aiding and assisting the genocide.*

**Share our socials and continue to support the work of the SHA!**



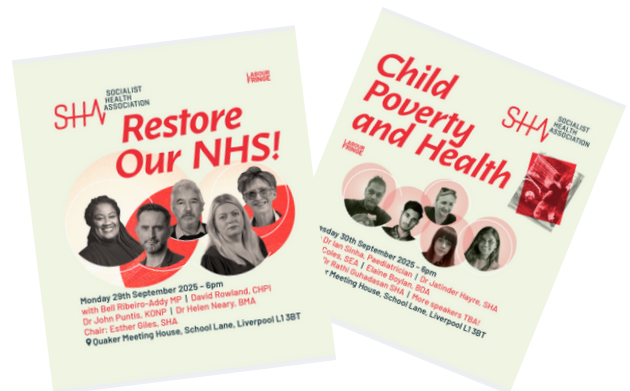
**Join or donate to the SHA, [here](#).**



## Protect our ICU Nurses – end Fire & Rehire at Bassetlaw Hospital

### Unite the Union

"Support nurses at Doncaster & Bassetlaw NHS Trust who risk being sacked if they do not agree to worse terms and conditions – such as increased rotation and commute times between two locations – as well as facing decommissioning tactics from a Trust that has admitted they do not want nurses permanently based at Bassetlaw ICU. Can you help STOP Fire & Rehire, Save Bassetlaw ICU and protect nurse & patient safety!" Sign the petition, [here](#).



## SHA Labour Conference

### Delegate Report

Chair, Rathu Guhadasan and Vice Chair, Barbara Roberts were delegates to Labour Party Conference. "We did not have a contemporary health motion this year, as we have submitted a rule change on donations to ministers from corporate interests. However, we did submit an emergency motion on Gaza, as passed at the CC, along with many CLPs and unions." Read in full, [here](#).

**Thank you to all SHA members for your work, activism, support and solidarity – Happy holidays and best wishes in the New Year!**

**SHA National Annual General Meeting will be held on Sat. 28<sup>th</sup> February at 10AM online via zoom.**

Members must be paid up by 3<sup>rd</sup> of January to be eligible to attend and vote. Coral Jones has been elected as the Returning Officer by the Central Council meeting (11th Dec.). More info will be updated on the SHA website. Any questions, please email [admin@sochealth.co.uk](mailto:admin@sochealth.co.uk)



Promoting health & wellbeing through socialist principles since 1930

Contact: [admin@sochealth.co.uk](mailto:admin@sochealth.co.uk)