



SERVICE GROUP EXECUTIVE

SPECIAL MEETING

21ST March 2012

The SGE met to discuss pensions. The negotiations on outstanding issues in the NHS Pension Scheme heads of Agreement ended 9th March 2012. The publication of the proposed final agreement was issued.

The offer had key elements of the proposed future NHS Pension Scheme. There are no major changes to key elements there is however, additional clarification on outstanding issues. There are now Terms of reference for the two ongoing reviews i.e. Partnership review of Access to NHS Pension Scheme and the Impact of Working Longer Review group.

Throughout the DoH has stated if no agreement a worse offer would be imposed. And fair deal would be removed.

All the Health unions involved in the discussions positions vary

BMA have rejected offer and say they will be balloting on action short of strike action but have not confirmed a date. Any action would be unlikely before summer

Unite have balloted their members on the offer with a recommendation to reject. This has been rejected but Unite are not calling for additional industrial action.

RCN have balloted members who rejected in a 16% turnout. With the low turnout the RCN have decided not to have formal industrial action ballot but to continue talking with other unions and DoH over this.

Other unions such as CSP SOR RCM are consulting members with either no recommendation or best that can be achieved by negotiation.

None of the unions apart from BMA have said they will take any additional industrial action over pensions.

At January's SGE meeting it was decided to continue negotiations on the outstanding issues in the Heads of Agreement and consult members on the final package in a full ballot on the best that can be achieved by negotiation. It also meant advising members if rejected they would need to take part in immediate and sustained industrial action.

The meeting on 21st March had a long and full debate with all members taking part.

After the debate members voted the decision was to ballot the members on the best that could be achieved by negotiation

There will be the option to reject on the ballot paper with the explanation that if this is so there will be a move to immediate industrial action

Ballot will open on 11th April and closes on 27th April.

Members will be able to vote on line too.

Branches will receive full details of proposal in order to inform members.

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