

Industrial action in health and care services

Background

This document sets out what we think about the industrial action happening across the health and care sector.

What we think

People with Parkinson's need timely access to healthcare services to help them live well with the condition and especially those with advanced Parkinson's. We support better working conditions for healthcare professionals as well as their right to protest.

It's important that the NHS and healthcare providers share clear communications with people with Parkinson's and their care partners about how they can access care and support while the NHS is negotiating with nurses and other healthcare professionals.

These communications need to be timely and accessible as uncertainty over appointments and treatments can exacerbate anxiety for carers and people with Parkinson's.

Waiting too long to change medication, or missing a window for vital treatment can have an irreversible impact on the quality of life of someone with Parkinson's.

We believe there must be clear communication from the NHS and healthcare providers about how our community can access services and support if their appointment is postponed or cancelled due to any industrial action.

Accessing health and care services for people with Parkinson's has been made worse by the pandemic. After waiting years for diagnosis, treatment and support, our community can't wait any longer.

We are currently calling on the UK Government and commissioners in England to implement and fund a workforce plan. Visit our [campaign webpages](#) to find out how you can get involved in our campaign.

Why we think this

Parkinson's is a long-term condition that needs specialist input from a multidisciplinary team of health and care professionals to stay well. In order to receive this treatment there needs to be a sufficient number of health and care professionals, who are trained and skilled in treating people living with the condition.

We know that currently there are workforce gaps in various areas of the multidisciplinary team that people with the condition rely on to manage their symptoms. Therefore people with Parkinson's could face even longer waits to access health and care services.

What we are doing

We have worked with National Voices (a coalition of health and care charities in England) to make representations to NHS England about clear and concise communications and mitigations they are instituting to ensure patients are informed and reassured about any disruptions to their services.

We have also made similar representations to the NHS in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Acknowledgement

We are grateful for the advice and guidance of our Policy Panel in shaping this position paper on industrial action.

The Policy Panel consists of people with experience of Parkinson's who meet on a regular basis to help guide the charity's position on a range of policy issues.

Further information

Please contact the Policy and Campaigns team. Tel: 020 7963 9349 or email: campaigns@parkinsons.org.uk

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