

Branch Annual General Meetings 2016

You are invited to attend **any one** of the following Annual General Meetings:

Tuesday 15th March, 6.00pm-8.30pm:

Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS

There will be a buffet from 6.00-6.30pm; meeting will start at 6.30pm

OR

Wednesday 16th March, 12.30-2.00pm:

Meeting Room 1, Park House, Delaunays Road, Manchester M8 5RB

A snack lunch will be provided

OR

Thursday 17th March, 12.30-2.00pm: Seminar Room 2, Laureate

House, Wythenshawe Hospital, Southmoor Road, M23 9LT

A snack lunch will be provided

Dear Member

You are invited to attend the Branch Annual General Meetings on the evening of Tuesday 15th March, or lunchtimes on Wednesday 16th March or Thursday 17th March 2016.

We know it seems a long time ahead, but we have to give enough notice to receive nominations and to hold postal ballot elections if necessary, and to circulate motions. So please put this date in your diary, and make every effort to attend.

The issues we'll be discussing will include:

- ◆ Branch Activities and Priorities: including plans for the future of mental health services and other health services within the 'Devo Manc' plans for Greater Manchester
- ◆ Campaigning for the NHS, against government austerity measures and cuts in local health services and jobs
- ◆ Branch Rules (*enclosed – the AGMs need to approve these*)
- ◆ Any motions which members submit

Come to the AGM to have your say

Come to one of the Branch AGMs

The last year has seen continued attacks by the government on the NHS, and inadequate funding for health services, especially mental health services. Significant community based services in Manchester Mental Health & Social Care Trust which were funded by public health monies were completely decommissioned or savagely cut. MMHSCT is planning further cuts to recovery-based and specialist psychological services. Other parts of the NHS within the branch, such as Health Education North West, NHS England and Public Health England have suffered from restructuring and redundancies. We need all members active and ready to be involved in campaigning – to save services and jobs and to fight for the future of the NHS.

Time off to attend the AGM: If you want to come to the AGM and you would normally be at work at that time, do request your manager to give you the paid time off. We will be informing MMH&SCT about the AGM and requesting them to give paid time off to those members who are normally at work at that time.

Motions: At the meeting we will also discuss motions which would set Branch policy. If you wish to submit a motion on any subject in which you are interested, send it to Ben Jackson, Branch Secretary, at the above address in writing by **Tuesday 26th January 2016** (so that we can circulate them to before the meeting). If you need help writing a motion, contact your steward or the Branch Secretary.

Election of Branch Officers: Nominations are invited for: Secretary, Chairperson, Treasurer, Communication, Education, Equality, Health & Safety, International, Lifelong Learning Coordinator, Membership, Welfare, Young Members (26 and under), Labour Link (elected by members who pay the political levy only), Retired Members (elected by the retired members). If you or anyone you know wants to stand, please send their name to the Branch Secretary at the above address by **Tuesday 26th January 2016**. You can nominate as many people for as many posts as you like. Any posts can be **shared**, so two people can be nominated for the same post and share the full responsibility. **If you'd like to know more about what any of these posts would involve, please contact the Branch Secretary.**

If there is more than one nomination for any post *and the nominees don't want to share* there will be an election by postal ballot. Where no valid nomination has been received before the deadline, nominations may be called for and candidates elected at the AGM.

Election of Stewards: It is up to any group of members (usually about 25-30 members) to elect a steward. **You all need to re-elect your existing steward or nominate someone new** - please send in your nominations in writing by **Tuesday 26th January 2016**. If there is more than one nomination for a group of members, then the members in that group will hold an election.

Election of Health and Safety Representatives: It is up to any group of members (usually about 25-30 members) to elect a Health and Safety Rep. You all need to re-elect your existing Health and Safety Rep or nominate someone new - please send in your nominations in writing by **Tuesday 26th January 2016**. If there is more than one nomination for a group of members, then the members in that group will hold an election.

Nomination forms are included in this mailing.

Please Note: You can nominate someone to be both a Steward and a Health and Safety Rep – and they can be a Branch Officer as well (if you really want to overload them!)

Dependant Care: The branch will pay for child or other dependant care if the meeting you attend is at a time when you wouldn't normally work and wouldn't normally have to pay for dependant care. Just bring a note of the amount to the meeting.

Transport: The branch will pay for taxis or help to arrange lifts if you would have any problems getting to or from the meeting.

Access Requirements: If you require any help with access (eg, mobility, documents in large print, a signer at the meeting) please contact the Branch Secretary.

Ben Jackson, Branch Secretary

All the AGM documents will be on the Branch website: www.mcmh.org.uk