

**PUBLIC & COMMERCIAL
SERVICES UNION**

ARMS  **NORTH
WEST**

STILL FIGHTING FOR UNION RIGHTS, SOCIAL JUSTICE & DEMOCRACY

ASSOCIATE & RETIRED MEMBERS

Associate and Retired Members North West Committee

NEWSLETTER

Website: tiny.cc/a-nw
E-mail: arms.mersey@gmail.com
Join ARMS: tinyurl.com/join-arms

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Editors: Steve Ion, Neville Grundy, Ray Beeton

NW Pensioners call for united action on NHS



Influential health think tanks, the King's Fund and The Nuffield Foundation are the latest to produce reports into the dire state of the social care sector. Whilst it is useful to shine a spotlight into the problems older people and their carers face, much of it is already known. In fact, **we don't really need another report** to tell us about the 'perfect storm' facing our social care system. Dot Gibson, National Pensioners Convention general secretary said: "This approach completely lets the government off the hook when we need real action to improve the state of our care services."



Steve Ion of NW ARMS at the anti-austerity demonstration in Birmingham

The North West Regional Pensioners Association passed a motion at their Annual Conference in October 2016 resolving to call a mass meeting in the North West of all those campaigning groups to determine ways in which they can support each other; they further resolved to call upon the North-West TUC and all health unions for support.

Stop the pensioner bedroom tax

Pensioners could be hit by a new "bedroom tax". The government wants to cut housing benefit for elderly people who have a spare room. But experts say there aren't enough smaller homes to move into, particularly for pensioners who need ground floor flats.

Some people will lose up to £34 a week if this cut goes ahead. If you're on a state pension, it could mean choosing between turning on the heating or paying your rent.

Labour MP Frank Field said: "Having previously been protected from the viciousness of the bedroom tax, large numbers of poor pensioners now look set to have their living standards cut by the Government's new strategy.

"My fear is that the great success over the past two decades in countering pensioner poverty could begin to unravel if this stealthy strategy goes ahead in its current form."

Please sign the petition at: tiny.cc/ebstfy



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Generations Against Austerity Conference

The government and the media try to set young workers, students and pensioners against each other, claiming that the lot of young people can be improved by attacking the benefits given to the older generation.

The Merseyside Pensioners Association reject this view, and are holding a conference in Liverpool on 12 November 2016. Speakers include:

- John McDonnell, Shadow Chancellor.
- Dot Gibson, General Secretary, National Pensioners Convention.
- Sheila Coleman, Unite Community Branch Organiser.

For more information, go to: tiny.cc/k0nncy

For tickets: e-mail: jlyontaylor@outlook.com

Disability & Carers Festival

Disability Equality NW are holding a free festival on Friday 25 November 10.30am to 2.30pm at St Johns Minster, Church Street, Preston, PR1 3BU.

- Free Santa for under 5s.
- Performances.
- Information stalls.
- Independent living & benefits advice.
- Disability hate crime info.
- Refreshments available
- More info: 01772 558863

NW ARMS supports Chorley A&E anti-closure campaign



Part of the demonstration at Chorley Hospital



Forthcoming events

NOVEMBER

Thu 3: Inaugural Lord Morris of Manchester Memorial Lecture, Manchester.

Fri 4: Nelson Mandela Memorial Campaign Fundraiser, Everton FC (Goodison)

Sat 5: Bolton & District Trades Council - 150 Years Celebration

Fri 11: 11am, Peace Remembrance Event, St John's Gdns, Liverpool.

Sat 12: conference by Merseyside Pensioners Association "Generations United" at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool. Speaker: John McDonnell.

Sat 12: Modern Slavery Conference, Liverpool.

Sat 12: 11am, United Against Fracking National Rally, Piccadilly Gdns, Manchester

Sat 19: TUC - Where Now for Equality? Manchester

Fri 25: Disability & Carers Festival, St Johns Minster, Preston

DECEMBER

Thu 1: midday to 2pm, Prisoners for Peace Day, LCVS foyer 151 Dale Street and Friends Mtg Hse, School Lane, both in Liverpool

For more details, go to: tiny.cc/a-nw (our blog) and click on 'Forthcoming events'.

Come to your local ARMS meeting

Merseyside: Wed 21 Dec at 11.00am Jack Jones House, Liverpool, L3 8EG.

NW Meeting: Wed 11 Jan, Disability Equality NW office, 103 Church St, Preston, PR1 3BS

Greater Manchester: 12 Jan, Methodist Central Hall, Oldham St, Manchester

See blog for full details: tiny.cc/a-nw