



Health

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RHE97.1: Public Health

(Originally passed – Spring 1997 Conference)

MfSS H100 declares that all Green Party policies are designed to promote the health of individuals, communities and society, but the MfSS contains no specific policy for what can often be one of the most unhealthy aspects of our environment, the general condition and atmosphere of public toilets.

Therefore the Conference resolves that there should be a new statutory duty on every local authority to provide and maintain good quality public toilets in its area. They should be free at the point of use. They should always include hot water, hand drying and nappy changing facilities as well as access for people with disabilities.

RHE03.1: Water Fluoridation - the Threat to Health and Civil Liberties

(Originally passed – Spring 2003 Conference)

Conference notes that a large number of MPs, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Plaid Cymru and especially Labour, have signed Early Day Motion 247 promoting water fluoridation.

Conference reiterates the party's firm opposition to water fluoridation and notes:

1. That while some evidence suggests water fluoridation reduces tooth decay, this is contradicted by mass studies in New Zealand, Canada and the USA indicating that fluoridation does NOT reduce tooth decay.
2. Fluoride is associated with a wide range of health problems, and the government's York Review was unable to conclude that water fluoridation was safe.
3. Mass medication contravenes the European Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine, which has been signed by 29 European countries but not the UK.

Conference therefore:

1. Instructs the External Communications Coordinator to continue to promote the party's opposition to water fluoridation.
2. Encourages local Green Parties to campaign on this issue locally, using the resources available from the national party.

RHE04.1: Show fluoridation the Yellow Card

(Originally passed – Spring 2004 Conference)

Conference notes the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 2000, Article 3, the right to the integrity of the person, which explicitly requires "the free and informed consent of the person concerned" before medication may be given.

Conference notes the passage of the Water Act 2003, which gives local health authorities the power to fluoridate water supplies without such individual consent, and the complicit role of the water companies, who

have argued that it should be politicians who decide whether or not to medicate people with fluoridation chemicals.

Conference also notes the request to the Green Party from the National Pure Water Association and from other groups seeking to uphold the freedom of the individual not to be medicated without their consent, that Greens participate in the Yellow Card campaign. As part of this campaign, individuals each send a yellow card to their water company, informing the company that if the supply is fluoridated, the householder will deduct from their water bill the cost of a reverse osmosis system necessary to remove the medication from the water.

Conference therefore:

1. Instructs GPEX to support this campaign.
2. Encourages individual Green Party members to send the campaign yellow cards to their water companies.
3. Urges local and regional Green Parties to publicise their support for this campaign in order to promote the party's policy against fluoridation.

RHE06.1: Support for NHS Logistic Worker's Strike

(Originally passed – Autumn 2006 Conference)

This conference supports the workers at NHS Logistics in their strike action against being privatised and calls for an immediate halt to all privatisation of the NHS. Conference calls upon GPEX to publicise our support.

RHE07.1: Downgrading of Mid-West Wales Hospital Services

(Originally passed – Spring 2007 Conference)

Across mid and west Wales local health trusts are planning to downgrade and close hospitals to the detriment of local communities; for example, the proposals to move consultant-led obstetrics from Bronglais Hospital in Ceredigion to Morrisons hospital in Carmarthen. This would mean a 2-hour drive for women and babies in need of urgent specialist help. This motion calls upon the external communications co-ordinator to campaign against these proposals.

RHE07.2: NHS Pay Settlement

(Originally passed – Spring 2007 Conference)

The Green Party notes that the (2.5%) increase 'awarded' to NHS nurses and other key health workers on the 1st March 2007 is effectively a pay cut as it is below the rate of inflation. This is another incidence of the grossly distorted priorities of the current government whereby expenditure, inflated managerialism and wasteful privatisation take priority over proper payment to key NHS employees. This is also the latest betrayal of the NHS and its founding principles by the Labour Party. We call for the situation to be remedied by the immediate restoration of full public ownership and control over the NHS. We call for full support for a national demonstration against NHS

cuts and privatisation and for the fullest possible publicisation of this position by the relevant sectors of the party.

RHE08.1: Call for Old Fashioned Dental Hygiene

(Originally passed – Spring 2008 Conference)

Following Alan Johnson's recent decision to allocate further money to encourage fluoridation throughout England and Wales, this Conference calls on him to reject old-fashioned mass medication as a response to tooth decay, provide dental care for all and ensure that children are taught to brush their teeth.

RHE08.2: Water Fluoridation

(Originally passed – Spring 2008 Conference)

Conference notes the recent announcement from the health secretary, Alan Johnson, MP, to provide funding for water fluoridation in the UK conference mandates GPEX, and in particular its campaigns coordinator, and elected members to prioritise the water fluoridation issue and endorse the following strategy:

- To call for the Health Secretary to tell us the full truth about water fluoridation, including the research showing the health dangers. If the Health Secretary does not do this within two weeks to call for his resignation.
- To call for the cessation of government funding to

the pressure group the British Fluoridation Society To work with groups such as the NPWA to enhance the message that water fluoridation is dangerous.

RHE08.3: NHS Privatisation

**(Originally passed – Spring
2008 Conference)**

The Green Party is extremely concerned to learn that (as

reported in the Evening Standard: 28/1/2008), a private American health firm (United Health Europe) has won control of three GP surgeries in London. We fear that this is the first step in an attempt to corporatise primary health care in the UK.

We believe that this is being done without any proper consultation with the citizens of the UK, who as stakeholders are the true owners of the National Health Service. We also fear that this paves the way to monopolistic malpractice and profiteering if it allows pharmaceutical and retail conglomerates such as Boots and Tesco to have any

control over the salaries, judgements and activities of GP's and other primary health providers

We pledge our full support to opposition this disgraceful step and any others like it by GPs, patient and pensioner groups, and trade unions in the health sector.

We call on Green Party spokespersons nationally, locally and regionally to promptly issue public statements condemning this corporatisation and openly call the Green Party press office to give such statement maximum promotion.