

TIME TO UNITE AND FIGHT FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE, BETTER JOBS



Photo (L-R): Margaret Hosey, Catherine Lyndon, Frances Whelan outside James Connolly Memorial Hospital in Blanchardstown

Over the last six years HSE and Voluntary Home Help/Home Care Services have been ravaged by cutbacks. In total nearly 3 million hours of care have been taken out of the system since 2008, representing a cut of 23% to HSE Home Care budgets.

And now the Government wonders why it has a Hospitals crisis with 800 patients classified as "bed blockers" on "delayed discharge". In many cases, these patients could be living back in their own homes, receiving a tailored package of HSE or Community Homecare support-better for them and better for our Health Service.

Now more than ever Home Help/Home Care workers need to come together through SIPTU to demand the restoration of hours. By doing so we can make sure that elderly people get the care that they need and that Home Help workers receive enough hours to make a decent living. We

would also save the State millions in nursing home/hospital care costs." But these hours aren't going to be handed back to us without a fight. There are private 'for profit' agencies demanding not just a slice of this work, but the full cake. And this government, just like the last one, just loves to outsource our work to the "lowest" bidder - even when it turns out to be more expensive for the taxpayer.

By getting organised through our union SIPTU - the union for Home Care workers - we can INSIST that our clients and our services receive the funding and conditions that they deserve. Above all, we can DEMAND that this government put public service ahead of private profit.

A SIPTU survey has revealed that 4 out of 5 Home Help workers would work more hours if they were available

**IT'S TIME TO STAND UP
IT'S TIME TO FIGHT BACK
IT'S TIME TO JOIN SIPTU**



Photo (L-R): Margaret Young, Margaret Mulvihill, Alan Mackessey, Alice Mullane and Kathleen Tier



Photo (L-R): Gertrude Fitzgerald, Liz Carroll, John Reilly and Josie Gallagher outside Mullingar Hospital

TACKLE THE HOSPITAL CRISIS- RESTORE HOME HELP HOURS

SIPTU Home Helps held protests outside four hospitals on Thursday (15th January) to highlight the role they can play in solving the overcrowding crisis in our hospitals.

The protests took place outside Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, St. James's Hospital, Dublin 8, the Midlands Regional Hospital, Mullingar, Westmeath and University Hospital Limerick

Frances Whelan, a Home Help from Blanchardstown and SIPTU activist, said: "People are stuck on trolleys and we know we can help. There are many people in hospital beds who with the correct support can return home and be cared for by the Home Help service.

"However, cutbacks in our service mean that for increasing numbers this is not a viable option. We want to get the message to the public that Home Helps are here in the local community and we are ready, willing and able to work."

A SIPTU survey has revealed that nearly seven out of ten Home Help workers currently have less than 20 hours work per week. The same survey also indicates that four out of five such

workers are seeking additional hours of work. This means in many cases a Home Help service could be provided for hospital patients enabling many of them to return to live in their own homes under a tailored care plan.

Pauline Reid, Shop Steward with Ballyfermot Home Helps Service" said: "A lack of available hospital beds is a crucial factor in this worsening crisis. However, there are currently 800 patients waiting to be discharged from hospitals across the State."

She added: "The crisis in our hospitals is integrally linked to the running down of health services within our communities. Nearly three million hours have been cut from Home Help services since 2008, with cutbacks only coming to a halt after a concerted campaign by our union.

"People are stuck on trolleys and we know we can help. There are many people in hospital beds who with the correct support can return home and be cared for by the Home Help service."



At the demo outside James Hospital were from (L-R): - Abigail Kelly (8), Georgina Kelly, Josie O'Boyle, Cora Coyne, Linda Dowling, Angela Foy, Marion Dore, Pauline Reid and Ann Kelly

JOIN SIPTU

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