



### **RCN media release**

25 October 2023

## **RCN members at the Care Plus Group prepare for a fair pay march and two days of strike action this week**

Members of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) employed by care Plus Group (CPG) are preparing for two days of industrial strike action this week. They will be taking strike action on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 October for better pay and pay parity with nursing staff employed by the NHS.

As part of their campaign, RCN members will also be marching through Grimsby town centre this Friday, 27 October calling for fair pay. RCN members will set off from Grimsby town hall at 11.30am and will call on the public to back them.

CPG is a social enterprise organisation based in Grimsby. Staff provide health and care services for the NHS across Northern Lincolnshire. Even though the Care Plus Group delivers NHS services, its staff do not receive pay, terms and conditions that match Agenda for Change in the NHS.

RCN members employed by CPG took strike action for the first time back on 25 August after being balloted earlier in the summer. 93% of RCN members who responded to the postal ballot voted in favour of strike action'.

The next phase of the pay campaign will see RCN members taking two days of strike action from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm on Thursday 26 and 7.00 am to 10.00 pm on Friday 27 October.

### **Sarah Dodsworth, Regional Director for the RCN in Yorkshire and the Humber, said:**

"Nursing staff are really struggling with the continuing cost of living crisis and trying to make ends meet. Like last year and the year before, CPG have imposed a below inflation pay award on their hard-working nursing staff.

"When you see the difference in pay between the NHS and non-NHS organisations, it's not surprising that people are leaving community health services or disregarding it as a career option altogether.

"CPG staff are committed, hard-working professionals providing, skilled, personalised, and compassionate care just like their NHS counterparts. Without healthcare

professionals in the community, patients will suffer and so too will their families. They help to ease the burden on our already overstretched hospitals and don't deserve to be financially worse off because of where they work.

"It is now time for change. The RCN is urgently calling on CPG and the Humber and North Yorkshire ICB to resolve the current pay dispute and ensure that nursing staff are paid the same as their NHS colleagues".

END

#### Notes to Editors

1. RCN members will be on strike from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 October, 2023.
2. RCN members will be marching through Grimsby town centre on Friday 27 October 2023 from 11.30 am. members will be gathering opposite Grimsby town hall, Town Hall Square, DN31 1HU from 11am. Due to the march the RCN will not be holding a picket line on either 26 or 27 October.
3. For more information contact the RCN Communications Team for Yorkshire and the Humber, Kevin Terry, [kevin.terry@rcn.org.uk](mailto:kevin.terry@rcn.org.uk), phone 0113 386 0512 or mobile 07843 326283.
4. The RCN is the voice of nursing across the UK and is the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. The RCN promotes the interest of nurses and patients on a wide range of issues and helps shape healthcare policy by working closely with the UK Government and other national and international institutions, trade unions, professional bodies.