

Wage row Hairmyres staff seek public support ahead of strike action

23 Aug 2019

Where: Princes Mall (outside The Exchange Bar), East Kilbride, Glasgow G74 1LB

When: 10AM to 4PM, Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 August 2019

With just over a week until strike action at Hairmyres hospital, GMB members will be campaigning in East Kilbride this weekend to make the public aware of their dispute with PFI contractor ISS and to seek support for the return of wages owed to staff.

A twenty four hour strike is scheduled for 00.01 hours on Monday 2 September until 00.01 hours on Tuesday 3 September, affecting key services such as cleaning, portering, maintenance, housekeeping and security at the East Kilbride hospital.

The dispute arose after three hundred staff received just two weeks' pay for three weeks work in May after ISS bulldozed through its new "Project Greenfield" payroll model, resulting in fortnightly paid staff waiting an additional week for the receipt of their wages.

After a summer of fruitless talks, GMB has once again reached out to the Cabinet Secretary for Health to intervene in the dispute and will call on the public to sign a pledge urging ISS to pay what they owe to staff.

Karen Leonard, GMB Scotland Organiser, said:

"There is no excuse for not paying your staff the wages they have worked for and it is shameful that dedicated NHS Scotland workers are being treated with such contempt.

"We want the public to know that our union has made every effort possible to make ISS do the right thing and we are asking for their support to increase the pressure on the employer with strike action scheduled at the start of next month.

"What we also want the public to know is that this dispute could be easily avoided if the local health board and the Cabinet Secretary show some leadership and rein-in this rogue contractor - it beggars belief ISS has been allowed to act with such impunity.

"That's why our members will campaign hard this weekend and what they will ask the public is simple: Support local staff working on the front line of our NHS and tell ISS to pay what they owe."

