

Concluding speech

John Lister

This is the beginning of a process. We are going to reach out to new people.

There are dangers in devolution. I think they are working it out as they go along, so in a way we are guessing at what the end result is going to be. This is not the type of devolution that any of us as campaigners would have asked for. The way this has been done is undemocratic. There is no prior public consultation.

We all know that consultation over the NHS has always been a joke. But we haven't even got that much on Devo-Manc: you just get an announcement such as 'we have all agreed' – no we haven't! This is all about getting councillors to be held to blame as far the government is concerned.

As campaigners we need to remember a couple of the cases where the Tories have paid a price in the past. We have to be clear – we are going to be waging different types of campaign in different places. Different things will be the vulnerable point.

You can't have one model for everywhere. We have to be flexible. We have to be sharp. We have to spot all these things happening. We need the local ears on the ground. We need to be learning the scale and the pace of what's going on.

Health Campaigns Together is intended as that opportunity. It can be the way we can develop and share resources and share information.

We want to build a big mobilisation around March 11th. We want to give tangible support to the nurses and junior doctors. The involvement of the unions is absolutely priceless in this.

Please build this organisation as a way towards a big, united campaign.

We don't want any more conferences that will fit in this hall! We want to be building a movement that can shake the government. The starting point for this is our demand for an NHS that is universal, comprehensive, publicly provided, publicly funded, with no markets, no contracting, no competition.

Let's fight together: Health Campaigns Together. We can win.