TAKING INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Amy Leversidge looks at what industrial action would mean for RCM members.

THE RCM HAS NEVER asked its members to vote for industrial action before. This will be the first time in history that the decision to ballot members has been made and we would not ask if we did not believe it was absolutely necessary. We are asking now because this is the time to say ‘enough’s enough’. This is a fundamental attack on your pay and we have to make a stand. We believe that if midwives and MSWs stand together and vote ‘yes’, we have the best chance of getting a fair deal for NHS staff. But, what does voting for and taking industrial action mean for RCM members? The dispute is with the employers as a strike, so just as you wouldn’t ask unless we believe that taking action is needed in your own best interests, we wouldn’t ask unless we believe that taking action is needed in the NHS’s best interests.

Members who are currently employed in the NHS in England, who are subject to strike action... The code does not prohibit nurses and midwives from taking part in lawful industrial action. Our workplace representatives (WPRs) will work with managers to ensure there is cover during the four-hour stoppage. You will have the support of your colleagues in the workplace. We are asking you to vote ‘yes’ to both strike action and action short of a strike. We believe that midwives deserve fair pay. You’ve already accepted long-term pay cuts and are working harder and harder to deliver high quality care with continuing shortages of midwives and daily pressures on services. You need to put a stamp on it. You will have the support of your colleagues in the workplace. We are asking you to vote ‘yes’ to both strike action and action short of a strike. The NMC code does not prohibit nurses and midwives from taking part in lawful industrial action. If you have any questions about the ballot, pay or industrial action please contact your local meeting or email: paycampaign@rcm.org.uk. When you have voted, tweet us @MidwivesRCM and tell us why you voted with the hashtags #whyIvoted and #nhspay or tell us your personal stories and why fair pay is important to you by emailing: paycampaign@rcm.org.uk. You can find out more by visiting rcm.org.uk and reading the FAQs on the pay page; if you have any questions, please ask your WPR, attend your local meeting or email: paycampaign@rcm.org.uk. When you have voted, tweet us @MidwivesRCM and tell us why you voted with the hashtags #whyIvoted and #nhspay or tell us your personal stories and why fair pay is important to you by emailing: paycampaign@rcm.org.uk.