



PRESS RELEASE

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ITS OUR NHS NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 4th March 2017 at 12.00 – 17.00

Assemble 12 pm Tavistock Square, London

Hands Off HRI, the local grass roots based group, campaigning against the closure of Huddersfield Royal Infirmary Accident and Emergency Department and the resulting reduction in services, will attend the “Its Our NHS National Demonstration” on Saturday 4th March 2017. We have received an overwhelming response to the demo, so much so that we have had to book another coach. Over 100 concerned citizens are now booked on local transport kindly provided at discount rates by Stott’s Coaches. Others are travelling down independently. This is a great response to the call for support.

The Kirklees and Calderdale Clinical Commissioning Group is currently compiling a full business case for the demolition of HRI, leaving a smaller planned treatment cottage style hospital. The plans would see Accident and Emergency moved, in its entirety to Calderdale Royal Hospital.

In addition, locally, the Huddersfield CCG intends to cut funding, by 44%, to Slaithwaite Health Centre. This will halve the number of appointments to see Doctors and Nurses and the GP partners predict that they will have to give up the contract by Christmas 2017 as the surgery will no longer be safe.

Whilst campaigning against these local issues we have been forced to recognise the wider effect of National Policies such as the Sustainability and Transformation Plan which, in creating 44 “footprints” across the UK, could see Accident & Emergency care in our region only available in Harrogate, Bradford and Leeds.

Nationally these stories are repeated in every region.

Our NHS is in crisis, years of underfunding have brought a Winter Crisis of epic proportions. A&E Patients waiting on trolleys in excess of 4 hours or more, cancelled operations due to lack of beds, caused by underfunding of social care, resulting in patients who are well enough to go home with support, having to remain in hospitals. In addition GP’s, mental health, ambulance and community services are on their knees.

Against this back drop, Health Campaigns Together and The Peoples Assembly have been urged to call a National Demonstration in support of our NHS and calling for:

A fully funded, publicly owned NHS & social care service

No cuts, no closures, no privatisation

End the pay restraint for NHS staff

The March will be attended by many local campaigning groups, including Save Lewisham Hospital, Fighting for Grantham, Barnsley Save our NHS, Protect Chorley Hospital from Cuts & Privatisation. Save Our Hospital Services, Devon, as well as NHS staff including Doctors, Nurses and Support Staff. Crowds are expected in tens of thousands.

Jeremy Corbyn, who will address the rally in Parliament Square, will also be joined by a range of speakers representing NHS workers, unions, campaigns and celebrities including; John McDonnell MP, Julie Hesmondhalgh, Len McCluskey,

Jacqui Berry, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS choir (2015 Xmas No.1). English drum and bass band Rudimental have also pledged their support and will attend the demonstration. Hands Off HRI Chairman, Mike Forster will be addressing the crowds.

ENDS