

# SAVE OUR NHS

# BUILD THE NATIONAL DEMO 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017

## WE DEMAND:

- Axe the health and social care act
- No cuts, closures or job losses in the NHS
- End the pay freeze! Decent pay for all NHS staff. No attacks on NHS workers' pensions or conditions
- No to cuts hidden under "sustainability transformation plans"
- Kick big business out of the NHS. End PFI and write off the debt
- Reverse council cuts to social care to relieve the A&E crisis
- Public ownership of the drugs companies – profiteering out of the NHS
- For a comprehensive, high quality NHS, under democratic control, with care free at the point of use – a socialist NHS
- For mass action to defend the NHS with co-ordinated strike action at its heart



## JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

Text JOIN with your name & postcode to 07761 818206

e: [join@socialistparty.org.uk](mailto:join@socialistparty.org.uk)

t: 020 8988 8777

a: Socialist Party, PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD

t: @socialist\_party

f: Socialist Party

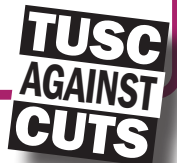
## Subscribe to the Socialist

Weekly paper of the Socialist Party  
[www.socialistparty.org.uk/main/subscribe](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/main/subscribe)



## 100% ANTI-AUSTERITY

The Socialist Party is part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition  
[tusc.org.uk](http://tusc.org.uk)



Come to meetings in your area to discuss and debate all these ideas. See:

[www.socialistparty.org.uk/whatson](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/whatson)

*Join the Socialists*

# socialistparty.org.uk

We need action to save the NHS. The demonstration called on 4 March by Health Campaigns Together, bringing together community campaigners and the trade unions, is a very good start.

The NHS is suffering huge cuts. The underlying deficit for 2015 alone was £3.7 billion. The previous coalition government introduced the Health and Social Care Act which has accelerated the destruction of our NHS. The Act removed the responsibility of the government to provide comprehensive healthcare for all.

This is making it easier for the withdrawal of some vital patient care - unless the patient can afford to pay! It has also lifted - to 49% - the amount of income Foundation Trusts (FTs) can make from private patients - at the same time as telling all NHS trusts they have to become FTs.

The next round of cuts has been hidden under the guise of Sustainability & Transformation Plans (STPs.) Sustainability is the code word for cuts. The government are driving towards £22bn of cuts to the NHS by 2020, on top of the £15bn from the last parliament. The only way these "sustainability" savings can be found in already over stretched NHS Trusts is closures. Either closures of entire hospitals or of departments and A&Es. Already the NHS has lost over 50% of its bed capacity in the past 25 years. Losing even more beds will push the health service and the social care sector to breaking point.

## NO HEALTH CUTS BY STEALTH!

The NHS, even after all the cuts and privatisation it has suffered, currently remains one of the best healthcare systems in the world. A recent study



by the Commonwealth Fund compared eleven of the wealthiest countries' health services: the NHS had the second lowest costs and yet delivered the best care. The NHS is so popular the government has not dared to openly privatise it, so it is trying to do it by stealth.

The Tories are moving towards their dream where the NHS will be no more than a 'kitemark' applied to private health providers. This would be a disaster for the vast majority of people who cannot afford to pay for private healthcare. In the US 62% of all bankruptcies - 900,000 people

- are caused by medical expenses. Two-thirds of those forced into bankruptcy had so-called 'insurance' but it didn't cover vital hospital bills.

## KICK OUT NHS PROFITEERS!

We need to kick the fat cats out of the NHS. The NHS is being privatised bit by bit. Services have gone to the private firms across the country and the consequences are already being seen. Services have worsened and are costing more as companies cream off a profit.

The Socialist Party calls for a comprehensive, high-quality NHS, under democratic control with care free at the point of use.

To do this we need to take all elements of the health service into public ownership, to stop private companies profiting from our ill health.

We need to reverse the Tories' privatisation drive but we also need to scrap the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and all other forms of privatisation that New Labour expanded massively. Bring the Independent Sector Treatment Centres under NHS ownership and control.

## HEALTH WORKERS FIGHTING BACK

It was through mass struggle that the working class won the NHS, it is only through struggle that we can defend it! Over the last year we have seen health workers and communities joining together and fighting back.

Student nurses have been protesting under the banner of #bursaryorbust, against plans to remove the bursary received when they are training and working for the NHS.

Local health campaigns have sprung up all over the country. There have been demonstrations of hundreds and thousands against threats of closures of A&Es, departments and whole hospitals.

Notable examples include thousands marching in Grantham - Margaret Thatcher's birthplace - and Huddersfield where there have been a series of protests, the biggest 8,000 strong, against the closure of the local A&E.

Junior Doctors have taken historic strike actions against changes to their working conditions that are both unfair and dangerous for patients as part of the Tory drive for a '7 day NHS' with no further funding.

These strikes gained massive support from the public proving the popularity of the NHS.



## BUILD 4TH MARCH DEMONSTRATION!

The Tory attacks on the NHS can be defeated but to do so requires united action. It is therefore urgent that health unions draw up a battle plan to defeat the cuts to the NHS. Central to this is united industrial action to defend workers and services.

The national demonstration on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March should be backed by the unions. It can serve as a focal point to unite local campaigns and workers to build up a head of steam to clearly show that when it comes to our health service, we will fight until we win!

**If you agree we need you to join the Socialist Party and help build the fight for a socialist NHS!**

