This branch notes:

1. Lewisham Hospital's Accident and Emergency (A&E), children's ward, critical care, emergency and complex surgery and maternity department are all under threat of closure due to South London Healthcare Trust falling into administration.
2. The South London Healthcare Trust is currently saddled with repaying debts of £69 million per year due to the involvement of private finance initiatives (pfis) and this is now resulting in the possible loss of services to those in need.
3. Without Lewisham hospital’s A&E department, the Queen Elisabeth Hospital in Woolwich will be the only A&E service for over 750,000 and will end up servicing 3 separate London boroughs.
4. The ‘Save Lewisham Hospital’ campaign was set up by local organisations, residents, trade unionists, Doctors, nurses, therapists and patients and has garnered the support of local MPs, councillors and the mayor.

This branch believes:

1. The proposed closures risk the jobs of hospital staff, the services local people rely on and could potentially cost lives as people in Lewisham have to travel miles to the A&E at Queen Elizabeth in emergencies.
2. If there are any changes to the NHS locally, this should involve the expansion and improvement of both provision and the local availability of services, not a race-to-the-bottom in the quality of healthcare because of budget cuts or closures.
3. The first public meeting for the 'Save Lewisham Hospital' campaign attracted over 800 people and demonstrates that the diverse communities of Lewisham both need and want to work together to defend and celebrate their local NHS services.

This branch resolves:

1. To affiliate to the save Lewisham hospital campaign.
2. To donate £ [........] to the save Lewisham hospital campaign.
3. To publicise any information produced as part of the save Lewisham hospital campaign.
4. To join the demonstration called on the 24th of November and bring our branch banner.
5. To invite a hospital worker to speak at our workplace or a forthcoming branch meeting about the campaign.
6. The branch will seek if possible to ‘adopt’ one of the wards under threat of closure, to delegate a representative of the branch to deliver a message of support to the staff there in person and build links with the workers on that ward.