

Dear

I am writing on behalf of the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign. The next phase of our campaign is to try to influence Secretary of State Jeremy Hunt before he makes his final decision in early February on the Trust Special Administrator, Matthew Kershaw's, proposals. We have called a demonstration in Lewisham on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January - "Save Lewisham Hospital – Save Our NHS". We would like to invite your union to take part in the demonstration. The demonstration will assemble close to Loampit Vale roundabout at 1200 and march past Lewisham Hospital to Mountsfield Park for a rally.

Kershaw's proposals to close the A+E and close or downgrade the maternity means, in effect, the closure of Lewisham as District General Hospital. Its acute medical, surgical and paediatric beds and CCU will also close. Please see our website [www.savelewishamhospital.com](http://www.savelewishamhospital.com) for detailed critique and rebuttal of these plans. Kershaw is also proposing sweeping £million cuts and job losses across south east London with the loss of several hundred nursing, medical and other health workers' jobs, and the closure of hundreds of beds. He proposes selling NHS land in Bexley and Bromley, and the sale of 60% of Lewisham Hospital site. There is the possibility of private companies taking over the Princess Royal, and providing surgery in the proposed elective surgical centre in Lewisham.

People across the whole of south east London will feel the impact of this savage attack on our NHS. The Save Lewisham Hospital campaign is working with campaigners in Greenwich, Bexley and Bromley to highlight how the TSA proposals will affect the NHS across south east London, and raise awareness of underlying issues which include the extortionate PFI payments, the NHS funding cuts and privatisation of NHS services accelerated with the passing of the Health and Social Care Act.

This is not just a local issue. Other disastrous PFI deals, such as in Peterborough, are leading to similar threats of closures or private sector takeover. Hunt has said that the Unsustainable Provider Regime in SE London is a trial run which, if successful, will be used elsewhere as a quick way to effect cuts and hospital closures while bypassing normal consultation and scrutiny rules. So Lewisham Hospital could be the first of many to fall under this plan of attack. That's why the fight to defend Lewisham Hospital is at the centre of the defence of local and national NHS services.

We've already built an amazing campaign in a few short weeks but we have to take it to the next level and show that people in Lewisham and south east London will not stand for this abuse of government power to destroy local health services. The Unions are crucial to this fight which is why we are appealing to you to support and participate in the campaign. Please affiliate, send a representative to our planning meetings, make a donation and support the demonstration on 26<sup>th</sup> January!

Yours sincerely

Louise Irvine, Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign