



# YOUR NHS

## is in danger from new government plans

### WHAT ARE THE PLANS?

New Government plans for £22billion cuts will see 1000s of hospital beds cut, jobs downgraded, A&E closures and rationed healthcare. This is on top of 6 years of systematic underfunding of NHS and social care. These plans are known as 'Sustainability and Transformation Plans' (STPs) and are a dangerous attack nationally and on our own NHS in Lewisham and South East London. The STP for SE London imposes shocking financial cuts. Losing vital NHS services will affect all of us, our families and friends.

### WHERE DO STPs COME FROM?

NHS England, the body that runs the NHS, has divided England into 44 regions or 'Footprints'. Each area has had to develop an STP. **This is sadly not about patients' needs, it's all about money and privatisation.** Our Healthier South East London (OHSEL) is organising the STP and involves six NHS commissioning groups and six Councils in SE London including Lewisham. They have all signed a plan to save £1billion from annual spending by 2020.

### NO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The STP plans have been developed in secret over the year **without public consultation** and were submitted to NHS England for approval. OHSEL is working with the 6 local councils on these plans but the full plans were kept secret even from councillors until pressure from the Campaign Council saw the publication of the already finalised plans published at the end of November.

### PLANS TO CUT £1billion JUST DON'T ADD UP

By 2020 across the 6 boroughs, £1billion will be cut from annual NHS budgets - on top of £242million cuts in adult social care's annual funding. OHSEL maintains that no hospital closures will take place. **BUT** the plan asserts that 'community-based care' will soak up rising need. **Yet to do this with over 20% less money just does not add up – financially or clinically.** Julia Simon, until earlier this month head of NHS England's commissioning policy unit, said of the STPs 'There is a lot of blue sky thinking and then you have a lot of lies in the system about the financial position, benefits that will be delivered - it's just a construct, not a reality.'

### HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE STRUGGLING ALREADY

GPs, hospital and community staff are so stretched: longer queues at Lewisham A&E and patients waiting longer for vital treatments, GP and home appointments. Why? **Because the Government has systematically underfunded the NHS by 3% per year since 2010 and social care has been cut by 30% since 2011.**

**STOP  
government  
NHS plans**

[www.savelewishamhospital.com/stp](http://www.savelewishamhospital.com/stp)

## **MYTHS ABOUT CARE IN THE COMMUNITY**

STP health plans rely heavily on personal care eg care for the elderly, mental health, disability – **yet social care has been cut by 30%**. Nationally a million older people are not getting the care they desperately need. Without help from local authorities, family or friends try to step in. OHSEL's STP hopes to deliver community healthcare good enough to provide the equivalent of 700 hospital beds for people in the community. **Problem: there is no evidence for this. The plan is flawed.**

Our Campaign would welcome 'excellent, multi-disciplinary, and multi-agency community based care' - it is sorely needed. **But there is no evidence that community based care can lead to a reduction in significant amounts of hospital based care, nor that it saves money.** In fact community health services are already being cut, for example health visitors and school nurses have just been cut by 20%. When these unrealistic STP plans fail, the danger is that SE London would be put into 'special measures' and that NHS England would impose devastating cuts. **At this point Lewisham Hospital is likely to be in danger once again.** The only way savings of this scale can be made is to cut services.

## **PRIVATISATION**

Encouraged by the Government and NHS England our **NHS is being sold off to the private sector on a scale undreamed of previously.** Companies like Virgin Health, Circle and Serco are now involved in planning, commissioning and delivering 'new models of service'. Locally Greenwich CCG has awarded a £73 million musculoskeletal contract to Circle Health with minimum consultation, instead of to Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust which delivers most of the health services in the area (this move is not part of the STP). This contract (not yet signed off) has been challenged by campaigners and the Greenwich Council Health Scrutiny Panel.

## **COMMUNITIES FIGHTING BACK NATIONALLY**

**Up and down the country hospitals and units are being closed under the STPs.**

Campaigners are fighting to save the renowned Huddersfield Royal Infirmary A&E from closure; Grantham A&E has been downgraded to daytime only – with a 45 minute/25 mile journey to the next A&E at night; in North West London the biggest closure and reconfiguration of services in the country is taking place; threatened closures are also being fought in South West and North Central London, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Durham and the North East.

## **OUR CAMPAIGN WANTS A BETTER NHS**

**As a campaign we support the NHS Bill 2016:**

- **A return to comprehensive publicly provided NHS care, paid for from taxation**
- **An end to NHS privatisation - release £5-10billion annually wasted on market costs**
- **Abolition of wasteful competition between NHS services**
- **National clinical standards and terms & conditions for staff**

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP IN LEWISHAM**

- **Write to your MP and councillors urging them to oppose the STP plans**
- **Get involved and join our campaign – help us to leaflet in Lewisham, organise activities and come to our meetings. Please see our website for details**
- **Ask our Campaign to come and talk to your group or trade union branch about the STP**

[www.savelewishamhospital.com](http://www.savelewishamhospital.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/savelewishamhospitalnhs](https://www.facebook.com/savelewishamhospitalnhs) Twitter: [@SaveLewishamAE](https://twitter.com/SaveLewishamAE)