



**We ask Lewisham Council to reverse
their proposed cuts**

*'My child waited one year for her
appointment with CAMHS - and that was
before these cuts. CAMHS really helped. My worry
is how long other kids will wait if the cuts go through...'*

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday 6 February 7.30pm

New Cross Learning

285 New Cross Road, London SE14 6AS

*Speakers: Parents, Patients, Clinicians,
Jon Ashworth - Shadow Secretary of State
for Health (Parliament business allowing),
Vicky Foxcroft MP*



www.savelewishamhospital.com



NO CUTS TO CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN LEWISHAM CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)

We are appalled at this government's insistent claims that it is funding the NHS adequately and taking child mental health seriously. Neither is true. In reality there is a double attack on children's services:

- cutting back on NHS spending each year with so called 'efficiency savings'
- up to 60% cuts in funding to local authorities, on which mental health services and social services depend

The Government boasts about its *Future in Mind* 'extra funding'. But this is only for specific purposes. It does not replace the huge cuts already made to core funding of Child & Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS).

Government austerity cuts have already forced Lewisham Council to make £153 million budget cuts with more to come. On top of NHS 'efficiency savings', Lewisham Council cut children's mental health funding last year by £94,000 and plans to cut a further £150,000 over the next 2 years.

This desperately needed CAMHS service can NOT be run properly on so much less money. Patients, parents, CAMHS staff and the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign do not accept Lewisham Council's assertion that child mental health needs can be met in other ways.

Lewisham Council needs to speak up and lead the way, fighting for young people and saying what we know to be true - that these cuts will hit vulnerable children and families very severely:

- At least 3 jobs will be lost, on top of two jobs lost last year – leading to 100s fewer appointments
- More referrals will be declined as 'thresholds' to access treatment get even higher
- Treatment will be rationed
- Waiting lists – already unacceptably long – will grow longer
- Each job lost is a clinician's caseload of real children in need untreated
- Young peoples' problems will reach crisis points without timely appropriate treatment.
- Unwell young people attending A&E in crisis will face longer, distressing waits
- Patients are already being sent to other hospitals, often miles from London

These mental health cuts affect real children in Lewisham, in real need.

Lewisham CAMHS is a well-respected service – skilled clinicians with high morale, choosing to work here, valuing the support they have given to schools, GP surgeries and other local facilities. However, the cuts over the last years have taken their toll – already many of these services are no longer available; it must not get worse.

Lewisham has higher risk factors contributing to poor child mental health than the national average. Referrals to this service, level of need, risk and distress that young people are experiencing are all increasing. Young people are victims of 8 years of austerity from this government.

We all have to speak out.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. PLEASE HELP US:

- Sign our petition and help us share it on social media:
<https://www.change.org/p/steve-bullock-do-not-make-dangerous-cuts-to-children-s-nhs-mental-health-services-in-lewisham>
- Join us in lobbying Councillors and Council meetings - see website below for information
- Ask your MP to take up your concerns
- If you are a Labour Party member, please put a motion opposing these cuts and get the Council to take a stand – see **website below**
- Come to our public meeting on Tuesday 6 February at New Cross Learning, 285 New Cross Road, London SE14 6AS (Station: New Cross Gate. Buses: 36, 136, 53, 177, 171, 172, 21

www.savelewishamhospital.com/childrens-mental-health/