

NHS - 60th Birthday protest



Friday 4 July 4pm
outside Department of Health
Richmond House,
79 Whitehall London
SW1A 2NS
Called by London Keep our NHS public

- **STOP NHS PRIVATISATION**
- **SAVE LOCAL GP SURGERIES**
- **NO TO POLYCLINICS**

Keep private health care companies out of the NHS

The Darzi report means cuts & privatisation

LORD DARZI, surgeon and health minister, was commissioned by the Government to "remodel" the NHS across Britain and has brought out a report on health services in London.

IT'S CLEAR what is driving this review. Darzi talks of the need to cut future increases in spending on the NHS by £1.5 billion by 2016 and says that more spending under the current system is unaffordable.

ONE OF the key issues that he raises is for an end to district general hospitals and for these to be replaced by more specialist treatment centres. He says that very basic A&E services should be provided by 150 polyclinics. This means closing almost immediately 16 of London's 32 Accident and Emergency (A&E) units.

DARZI ALSO raises the need to cut the number of beds available in London's hospitals by 6% over the next 10 years. This is at a time when London's population is set to rise by 8%.



Keep our NHS public

www.keepournhspublic.com



Photo: Paul Mattsson

- **SAVE OUR GP SURGERIES**
- **NO TO PRIVATE POLYCLINICS**

ONE OF the other main attacks on the NHS proposed by Darzi is getting GPs to relocate to the 150 polyclinics planned across London. This policy, which the government has now approved, will mean that 70% of GP surgeries in London will be forced to relocate into these new polyclinics of 25 or more GP's. This is another attack on the provision of local services. Patients will have to travel further to see their GP and would be unable to see the same doctor on a regular basis. They will lose the personal relationship they usually have with their family doctor.

BUT THE biggest problem with these proposals is the involvement of private companies such as Virgin, BUPA, United Health and Boots in running these polyclinics. The government is deliberately weighting the bidding process in favour of large private organisations. We want an end to private companies' involvement in the NHS not more of it!

ALL THIS is against a background of increased privatisation of the NHS as a whole. The US private health company United Health (implicated in corrupt practices for denying those it has insured much needed care) have now been awarded a contract to commission services for Primary Care Trusts. In addition to this they own two GP practices in the Midlands. This is just one out of 11 private health companies which has been handed contracts by Alan Johnson, secretary of state for health



Photo: Paul Mattsson

- **HEALTH SERVICES IN LONDON UNDER ATTACK**

HEALTH SERVICES in London are already at breaking point. Already 9 accident and emergency units are faced with closure. The private finance initiative (PFI) is having a devastating effect on NHS funding. NHS trusts are paying £52 billion on 30-60 year contracts for original construction costs of £8.5 billion. Ambulance numbers in London are to be reduced and replaced with solo-responders – one paramedic. Where ambulances with two staff remain one of the crew may not be fully qualified.

- **THE MONEY IS THERE**

THE MONEY is there to provide the services that we need. It costs much more for the NHS to pay for services to be provided by private companies than it does on the NHS. Bring all services and buildings back into a publicly funded and run NHS. Reverse and end all privatisation.



Photo: Molly Cooper



Photo: Paul Mattsson

- **GET INVOLVED**

SOME CONSULTATIONS on the Darzi report and proposals for cuts in different areas around London are still going on. Look out for these meetings, go along and make your views heard. Register your opposition at:

www.healthcareforlondon.nhs.uk/have_your_say.asp

If you would like to get involved with Keep Our NHS Public go to www.keepournhspublic.com or return this tear of slip to Keep Our NHS Public, 19 Vincent Terrace, N1 8HN;

I would like to join

I would like more info

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____
