

**Southwark Keep our NHS Public**



# SAVE THE NHS!

## No ward closures, no bed cuts, no privatisation, save our NHS



**Due to a less than 1% overspend at the end of the last financial year, the NHS is seeing this used as an excuse, for unprecedented cuts and privatisations up and down the country.** In response thousands of people have been demonstrating to defend their right to free health care, based on need not profit. Hospital trusts, and community care trusts are saying they are in financial crisis, up to 30 community hospitals are in danger of closing, or being taken over by private companies.

**Nationally it appears that the NHS is in the process of being privatised bit by bit.** In October NHS Logistics, who supply hospitals with everything from bedpans to emergency theatre kits, was sold off to a consortium of DHL and the American private health care purchasing firm, Novation. The National Blood Service is facing massive cutbacks 14 regional laboratories are due to be shut down, in what is widely believed to be a prelude to privatisation.

**Here at Guys & St Thomas'** there are creeping cuts effecting every department, despite the fact the Trust was in a surplus of £4 million at the end of the last financial year. Since April 2005 there have been over 66 beds closed, including two wards. That doesn't include a further 8 beds being lost as a result of the closure of a cancer ward last month.

Then there's the daily grind of not being allowed to cover vacancies and sickness with temporary staff, often resulting in nursing areas for instance, students effectively taking the place of qualified nursing staff. It means that when patients finally get a bed in the Trust they are less likely to be placed in an appropriately specialist ward, and often find the ward they are in is understaffed.

**But in response to nation wide cutbacks, there have been the formation of many local campaign groups, who have demonstrated and lobbied to defend the NHS.** The **Southwark and Lambeth Keep Our NHS Public** group have been meeting regularly, and played an important role in organising the successful feeder march for the lobby of parliament on 1st November.

**A national day of action has been called on 15 December where NHS campaign groups and trade unions will organise meetings and protests all over the country. the Southwark keep our NHS Public campaign is organising a lunchtime meeting outside Guys hospital on Snowfields Road at 12 30 to 2pm. Come along during lunch your lunch hour and show your support for the campaign to stop the cuts and closures, privatisation and save the NHS.**

**Hospital workers, patients, local people and trade unionists are all invited to the lunchtime meeting on 15 December**