

JOIN Keep our NHS public

Keep Our NHS Public

- Annual membership **£10/£5** waged/unwaged.
- Local Keep Our NHS Public groups can form with a minimum of **FIVE** fully-paid members: all we ask is that you try to share 50% of subsequent locally recruited membership income with National KONP – depending on the demands of your local campaigning.
- Trade union affiliations: £30
- Local health and anti-cuts campaigns £20
- Pensioners groups £15
- Regional organisations £100

I want to join/affiliate our organisation to Keep Our NHS Public. I enclose a membership fee of £..... plus a donation of £..... Cheque total £..... (payable to Keep Our NHS Public)

[delete as appropriate]

Name

Address for mailings

..... Postcode

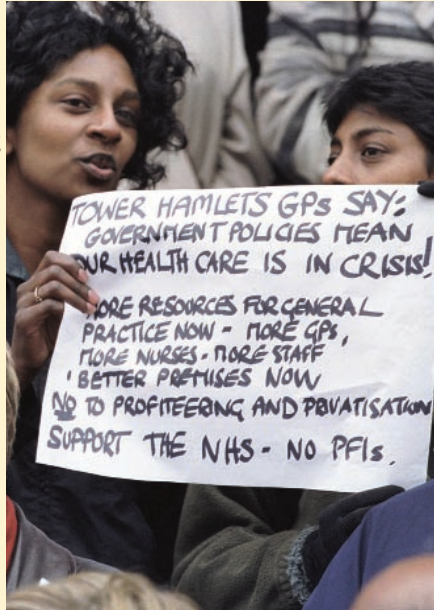
Phone Email

Organisation (if any)

Position held

Tick here if you are willing to be contacted to help launch a local campaign in your area.

Send completed form to us at: Keep Our NHS Public, c/o NHS Support Federation office, Community Base, 113 Queens Road, Brighton, BN1 3XG



Jess Hurd /reportdigital.co.uk

Keep Our NHS Public



JOIN US ON THE MARCH, London, SATURDAY November 3

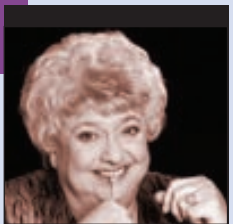


In 2008 the NHS will reach its 60th birthday: but the celebrations for our most popular public service will take place alongside protests against cuts, closures, job losses and the piecemeal privatisation of hospital and primary care services that have gathered pace in the last five years.

Both aspects will take place side by side at the national demonstration that has been called by the NHS Together trade unions in London on November 3. Keep Our NHS Public is happy to support the march: we agree that the NHS is to be both celebrated and defended.

We are not among those who take joy in attacking and criticising the NHS and exploiting its every problem in order to argue the case for privatisation or private health insurance: we believe the NHS is fantastic value for money, providing a unique service that the private sector could never have developed.

But we are also alarmed that misguided government “reforms” are undermining the very fabric of the NHS, fostering a new, parasitic private sector, and threatening the future of vital services.



“The NHS was a beautiful invention that took the fear out of getting healthcare. “We must do everything we can to ensure that it is not undermined. “If you can, do something positive to support this campaign.”

– Claire Rayner

Why we think the NHS is such great value

■ The NHS maintains a skilled and dedicated workforce of 1.2 million, combining doctors, nurses, professional staff and many more skilled clinical and non-clinical support staff who make the system tick.

■ It has developed a national network of hospitals, health centres, and community-based services, with resources allocated on the basis of meeting health needs, not maximising profit. Large NHS district general and teaching hospitals offer a full range of services, while private hospitals are tiny – averaging just 40 beds – and offer a narrow range of services to a limited section of the population. When things go wrong, private hospitals ship their patients ... to A&E and the care of the NHS!

■ The NHS runs vital 24-hour emergency services – ambulances and A&E departments – that the private sector does not even pretend to provide, because they do not offer any prospect of a profit.

■ NHS primary care services offer millions of consultations and treatment – free of charge: and tens of millions still enjoy free prescriptions – we think ALL prescriptions should be free, as is now the case in Wales.

■ The NHS offers swift access to life-saving treatment for cancer and heart problems, saving thousands of lives each year.

■ The NHS is the body that trains and educates health professionals and doctors offering a career structure for medical staff: and it leads vital research into new techniques, drugs and treatments.

Keep Our NHS Public is pleased to join those celebrating all these aspects of the



NHS: but we also support the tens and hundreds of thousands who have been campaigning against local cash-driven cutbacks, closures, job losses and misguided policies of privatisation of hospital and primary care services, and the ruinously expensive Private Finance Initiative.

WE SUPPORT the trade unions who correctly opposed Foundation Trusts as a step to a 2-tier health service – the first wave of 59 Foundation Trusts are now sitting on surpluses totalling almost £1 billion, while other Trusts and Primary Care Trusts are making cuts in services to balance their books, including damaging cuts in mental health and care of the elderly.

WE SUPPORT the campaigners who have tried to halt the development of profit-seeking “Independent Sector Treatment Centres”, which charge above the NHS tariff for treating the most minor and uncomplicated cases, but which enjoy guaranteed long-term contracts: their growing share of the NHS budget is now beginning to destabilise local NHS Trusts.

WE HAVE SUPPORTED campaigners in



Derbyshire and elsewhere who have fought to stop contracts for GP services being handed to US-run multinational companies looking to get their hands on the £64 billion NHS commissioning budget.

And we have consistently argued against each element in the government “reforms” which have fragmented the NHS and made it more like a competitive market, and less like the national, planned, universal and comprehensive public service established when the NHS was formed in 1948.

This market-style system is driving the controversial local hospital cuts and closures that have brought hundreds of thousands of people onto the streets in protest in the last two years. But it’s clear that a huge section of the population agrees on the need to Keep Our NHS and its services intact – and keep it Public.

IF YOU share our support for the NHS and its values, and our opposition to the expensive and bureaucratic reforms and privatisation pursued by the government since 2000, make sure you JOIN THE MARCH on November 3. And why not join Keep Our NHS Public as an individual member, get your trade union or local community group to affiliate, and help us build the resistance, and build local groups that can fight to defend our NHS.

Check out our website

Keep Our NHS Public’s website has a unique mix of fully searchable and up-to-date information from national and regional press, background briefing material, and campaign resources.

www.keeppournhspublic.com

Read all about it

KONP’s trail-blazing pamphlet exposing the “Patchwork Privatisation” of the NHS is back in print. Order copies (£1.50 each) via the website or send cheque with order to: Keep Our NHS Public, Community Base, 113 Queens Road, Brighton, BN1 3XG.



There will be a MARCH and RALLY in central London on Saturday 3 November 2007 – come along with colleagues, family and friends. Transport available from every area. Find out more from www.nhs.together.org.uk/

What you can do:

- Join Keep Our NHS Public
- Get your friends, work colleagues, trade union branch, pensioners group, community organisation or hospital campaign to join up, too, and make a donation to kick off a local campaign.
- Set up a local meeting to bring together campaigners and trade unions to defend your local services.
- Set up a local branch of Keep Our NHS Public, or campaign alongside other community groups and campaigners under this banner
- Get signatures on our petition, lobby local MPs, councillors and NHS organisations demanding a halt to cuts, privatisation and commercialisation of health care
- Build a public event – ask us to arrange a speaker.
- Help us build a movement big enough to force a change.

