

The NHS is 60!

PFI?



No Thanks!

5th July 2008

Assemble: 11am

Royal Liverpool Hospital

**Celebrate and Defend
the NHS – No Privatisation**



**Merseyside TUC
Keep Our NHS Public**

Celebrate and defend the NHS

Public healthcare, free at the point of need, funded by general taxation, provided by the public sector and accountable to the public... is definitely something to celebrate. Anyone who has been to the States knows the alternative: people without health insurance can die without treatment.

The NHS has survived for 60 years – another cause for celebration. Its founder, Nye Bevan, declared it would last as long as enough people care about its survival to secure it. His prediction is now being put to the test, as the slogan “mostly free at the point of need” replaces every other concept of the NHS as a public service.

The NHS is becoming a brand name, commissioning health care from the private sector. Merseyside is no exception.

Two years ago, Sefton PCT (Primary Care Trust) tried to impose a privatised GP surgery in Maghull, until a vibrant local campaign defeated their plans. But Liverpool PCT has allowed Chilvers McRae to plant a private surgery in the city.

Last year Liverpool PCT allowed Assura, in partnership with GPs who set up their own company, to establish a privatised dermatology clinic competing with the Dermatology Unit at Broadgreen Hospital. Conflicts of interest hit the press and provoked a Parliamentary investigation.

Across the region, patients needing hip replacement and other orthopaedic surgery are being redirected to a Treatment Centre in Halton run by a private company Interhealth Canada, with an NHS logo at the entrance.

Last year the Royal began moves to close its £1m Sterile Supplies in favour of a privatised “super” unit, which may be sited in Bebington. This would bring job losses and risk delays in obtaining sterilised equipment on demand.

Stop PFI

Now the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen are planning a £400m redevelopment based on the widely discredited Private Finance Initiative. Under the plan, a private consortium will build, own, and lease the hospitals back to the NHS Trust whose first legal priority – above clinical need – will be to pay off the debt.

The plan already involves 315 bed cuts before the new hospitals are built. Then as the gap widens between the debt and what the Trust can afford to pay each year, there will be more cuts in staffing and services. How do we know? Because all over Britain, huge PFI hospital schemes are landing Trusts in massive debt, triggering fresh cuts. PFI is the most expensive way to build a new hospital. But the public will pay for it, over the next 40 years.

If you think the NHS is safe, think again, and join us on 5th July.



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