



## PRIVATE TREATMENT CENTRES

The government is wasting billions of pounds farming NHS work out to private treatment centres. As a result, local NHS hospitals across the country are facing cuts and closures and hundreds of redundancies.

### **You can challenge Private Treatment Centres in your area Demand *YOUR* right *NOW* to public consultation**

- ❑ Under the law, your Primary Care Trust (or Health Authority) **MUST** consult with patients and the wider community before it can decide to cut or close services or make changes in the way health services work in your area.
- ❑ Your Primary Care Trust **MUST** consult formally with your elected councillors on Overview and Scrutiny Committees before it can decide to make major changes to your health services.
- ❑ Your Primary Care Trust **MUST** provide information and enough time (12 weeks) to allow you to make an informed response to a consultation.
- ❑ Your Primary Care Trust **MUST** show it has listened to your views at the end of a consultation.

### **What you can do if your NHS Trust refuses to consult or does not consult properly on plans for a Private Treatment Centre.**

- ❑ Any patient who is affected or likely to be denied treatment at a local NHS hospital as a result of a private treatment centre, may be able to take legal action.
- ❑ A patient on means tested social security benefits, such as income support, or pension guarantee credit, family credit or housing benefit would qualify for Legal Aid (Public Funding) to cover their legal costs.
- ❑ Collect together all relevant papers (public consultation documents, reports, press releases, press cuttings, correspondence etc).
- ❑ **Do not delay.** Cases must be brought promptly, within weeks of a decision being made. Claimants do not have to attend court.
- ❑ Contact the **Keep Our NHS Public campaign** for more advice on what to do:
  - ❑ **KONP, 19 Vincent Terrace, London N1 8HN**
  - ❑ **[www.keepournhspublic.com](http://www.keepournhspublic.com)**