

PRESS RELEASE



News from Keep Our NHS Public campaign www.keepournhspublic.com

EMBARGO/Release date: Saturday, 24 June, 00:01

Greater Manchester PCT Chair slams NHS reforms

The Chair of a PCT in Greater Manchester will speak out against the Government's NHS reforms at a demonstration tomorrow (Saturday, 24 June). Addressing a Keep Our NHS Public rally in Manchester, Debbie Abrahams, Chair of Rochdale PCT, will say she has "no option but to speak out publicly" before the reforms take the NHS to "the point of no return." She will warn that market reforms "**threaten the future of a NHS that is equitable and free at the point of need**".

It will be one of the first occasions where someone tasked with implementing the controversial market reforms will have broken ranks to speak out against them. She will say:

"I believe passionately in the NHS; for me it is not just about how we organise and provide health care, it reflects and represents the values of our society. During my period as Chair of Rochdale PCT, I have seen a steady stream of national policies introduced - Foundation Trusts, Choice, Independent Treatment Centres and now Commissioning a Patient led NHS - which threaten these values and the future of a NHS that is equitable and free at the point of need.

"I have repeatedly raised my concerns without success and feel I have no option but to speak out publicly before we reach the point of no return."

The demonstration is expected to attract over 1,000 NHS staff, as well as many members of the public angry at the cuts being made by the Pennine Acute NHS Hospitals Trust. The trust is axing 800 jobs across its four hospitals at Fairfield, North Manchester, the Royal Oldham and Rochdale Infirmary.

The event been organised by Manchester Keep Our NHS Public, Unison and Manchester Trades Council. Protesters will assemble at 11.30 am at Victoria Station, Manchester, on Saturday 24 June.

For further information please contact Alex Nunns on 07763 607 528, konp.press@virgin.net

Alex Nunns
Information Officer
Keep Our NHS Public
07763607528
konp.press@virgin.net
www.keepournhspublic.com