



Newsletter N^o5 ◊◊◊ May 2011

NOTTS SOS

Defending jobs, services, welfare & education against cuts in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

Save Our NHS – Kill the Bill

Health expert Professor Colin Leys joined Nottingham University Hospitals UNISON Branch Secretary, Martin Benn, and local St Ann's GP, Dr Chris Udenze, to tell a packed public meeting in Nottingham why we must "kill" Andrew Lansley's Health and Social Care Bill.

"This bill removes the Secretary of State's duty to provide universal health care services and does not assign it to anyone else," said Leys. Benn said: "It will allow any willing provider to tender for NHS services. We already have private companies in the NHS and it has been a disaster for staff and patients."

And Udenze told the meeting: "The bill is about creating market forces to deal with a perceived economic crisis – a crisis caused by the banks. This spells the end of the NHS as we know it."

Massive opposition to the NHS reforms set out in the Bill has already forced the government to announce a "pause" in the legislation to allow it to "listen" to concerns. Local health campaign groups including Notts SOS and 38 degrees Nottingham called the meeting to build resistance and mobilise against the Bill.

They say the reforms will mean:

- NHS funding cuts of £20 billion in savings by 2014;
- 80% of the NHS budget will pass from GPs to non accountable Private Commissioning Companies;
- US style, expensive 'top up' fees – with those who can afford it receiving better care;
- A two tier NHS with private patients moved to the top of the treatment queue; and
- Zero accountability.

For more information see our website www.nottssos.org.uk or email nottssos@gmail.com

Save Hayward House Daycare Campaign

Patients, volunteers, friends and relatives are campaigning to stop the end of daycare services at Hayward House, which cares for terminally ill cancer patients at the City Hospital site. They are lobbying MPS, collecting signatures on a petition and have set up a website at www.savehaywarddaycare.org.uk

"The announcement that daycare at Hayward House is to cease has [from September], cruelly, caused despair to frail people with terminal illness," say campaigners. "However, despite their illnesses, much of the campaigning is being led by patients with terminal cancer. Many of us would imagine that, if we were in that position, our symptoms, pain, disabilities and fear would prevent us from campaigning. So the strength and bravery of these patients is astonishing, and shows the level of feeling and desperate need there is for the daycare service at Hayward House to continue."

For information about getting involved in the campaign visit the website or contact: boraxwoman-hayward@yahoo.co.uk

Huge turnout from Notts at TUC anti-cuts demo

Over 40 coaches, minibuses and even a union-chartered train brought trade unionists and others from across the county to the 500,000 strong TUC anti-cuts demonstration in London on the 26 March.

“We all came back enthused by the enormity of the opposition to these cuts – and there is a shift in public mood to realise we can do something and there is an alternative,” said Branch Secretary of Ashfield UNISON Richard Buckwell.



Civil servants in the PCS have a series of sectional disputes and strikes now ongoing. In Ashfield, council workers protested against redundancies and won. And Uk Uncut has subsequently organised further protests around tax evading stores in Nottingham, attracting public support and media attention.

The Heath Service cuts are now receiving massive deserved opposition (see the public meeting in Nottingham on 21st April on page 1). All these actions help involve a wider layer of people and give confidence for bigger battles.

What Next? – Co-ordinated strike action on 30 June

Most importantly co-ordinated mass strike action – a general strike in plain English – is now on the agenda. Teaching unions, the civil service PCS union, and possibly health service unions are balloting their members for strike action on 30th June over the attack on public service pensions. Action like this can defeat this government.

GET INVOLVED – What can we do?

Here are some of the anti-cuts activities and events and Notts SOS meetings from Saturday 30 April. More on the web.

- Saturday 30th April Mayday festival and march, Victoria Park, Sneinton, Nottingham 11 am to 6 pm. March to City Centre at 12 noon then back to the park.
- Sunday 22nd May, Green Festival, Arboretum, Nottingham 12 noon to 6 pm.
- Notts SOS meets every fortnight on Monday at 7.30pm at the ICC on Mansfield Road except the April 25th meeting is moved to Tuesday 26th because of the bank holiday.

Keep your eyes on the Notts SOS website for details of more events. Also keep a look out for local UK Uncut activities and visit their website www.nottsuncut.webden.co.uk

Tell your workmates, friends and neighbours about our campaign and get involved in saving our services.