



Newsletter N^o6 ◊◊◊ June 2011

NOTTS SOS

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

Save Our NHS – Campaign Continues to Grow

While there are encouraging signs of weakening as the Government is forced to acknowledge the strength of public and professional concern about Andrew Lansley's Health and Social Care Bill, **there must be no weakening in our campaigns; success is still far from sure.**

At the 'Listening Exercise' held by the city and county PCTs on 18th May, over a hundred concerned citizens attended and made their views known to Vicky Bailey of David Cameron's Future Forum – the panel set up to listen to the public during the 'pause for reflection'. Outside the event, at the Belgrave Rooms, Notts SOS held a picket offering advice and information to those attending and passersby. Protests were also held at a similar event the day before, in Edwinstowe.



No-one who was at either event could be left in any doubt that the public are overwhelmingly opposed to government plans to put hospitals in competition with each other and open up the NHS further to private medical companies for them to profit from health care.

Local **Save Our NHS Day of Action** coming up on Saturday 9th July

For your diary: Latest planning is that Notts SOS have called for a day of action for the NHS. Multiple activities are being planned, leading up to it and on the day, and support is hoped for from lots of other groups. See the website for groups who have committed support already.

Hayward House Campaign Successful!

Campaigners to save Hayward House Daycare have heard that daycare for cancer sufferers will now NOT CLOSE. The NHS board, who have admitted to campaigners and patients that they "made a pig's ear of it", said that they hadn't realised what the care actually involved. They also admitted that their decision to do a U-turn and retain day care was reached because of the public campaign! Check on the website for the latest news, but congratulations to all who protested – it shows what can be done – and KEEP IT UP! Campaigners say that they are confident daycare is safe now, but they are keeping the campaign "on ice" in case. They ask for any signed petition sheets still out there to be returned.

www.savehaywarddaycare.org.uk

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

ATOS and Office Angels actions

Activists met outside Office Angels in Nottingham on May 9th to protest at them not paying a temp worker in London. Pressure was successful and the worker was paid. They then moved on to the ATOS Healthcare Assessment in Hockley, where the new Work Capability Assessments are being done, resulting in benefits being refused to many people genuinely unable to work. This is yet another way of penalising the more vulnerable in our society.



Notts Uncut – Save the NHS

Notts Uncut took to the streets of the city again on Sat 28th May, with their unique brand of street theatre and protest.

With one of their number dressed as a pantomime Andrew Lansley in cape with horns and tail, and others as doctors and patients, they acted out what could happen to the NHS if the Health and Social Care Bill gets made into law.

The novel approach drew interested shoppers, many of whom stopped to view the whole performance, which lasted about 10 minutes and was repeated at various locations. Banks were again a focus and the link between the government's desire to open the NHS to private medical companies and the greed of the bankers was forcibly made.

Notts Forests Still Under Threat

The government did a U-turn on its plans to sell of our forests after a huge public outcry, but it has cut forestry commission spending by 25% and is still making ill-informed decisions which mean that Sherwood Forest remains under threat.

The Forestry Services office at Sherwood Pines is to close, staff will be removed from the area and public access to private woodland could be lost.

On Tues 28th June there is an important meeting at the Friends Meeting House with a representative of the government's Expert Panel on forests. For more information: www.saveshherwoodforest.org.uk

Get Involved – What can we do?

- Sat 4th June, Notts SOS stall & leafleting, Market Square midday
- Mon 6th June, Notts SOS regular fortnightly planning meeting at the ICC, Mansfield Road. Everyone welcome, 7.30-9pm.
- Tues 7th June, Support Gedling School in their fight against proposed closure. Rally with speakers at the school, 5.30pm.
- Thurs 30th June, Strikes by several unions already set, more will join for combined action. See our website for latest news about workers joining this demonstration of opposition to government cuts and treatment of public service workers. Come along to Market Square to support them on the day!
- Sat 9th July, Save Our NHS Day of Action – again see our website for details.