

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Keep Our NHS Public

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Notts people rally to support six marathons to stop sick Health bill

Over 600 people enthusiastically signed post cards to David Cameron at the Notts-KONP stall in the Market Square on Saturday in support of Bevan's Run. The new Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Keep Our NHS Public branch were pleased with the response – 'We had expected to be here until 3;00pm but we'd run out of post cards by 1:15pm, people are clearly ready to sign up to fight for their NHS and have been inspired today by Bevan's Run', said Ian Hewitt the branch convener.

Representatives from Notts-KONP will be waiting for two NHS oncologists to arrive outside the Department of Health, Richmond House in London on Sunday afternoon following their 6 marathons in 6 days. Post cards from Nottingham will be presented to the Prime Minister's office by the two consultants.

Bevan's Run is the project of two NHS oncologists from North East England - Doctors Clive Peedell and David Wilson – who are running 6 marathons in 6 days to raise public awareness of the dangers of the coalition Government's Health and Social Care Bill. It is organised by the NHS Consultants Association and supported by Keep Our NHS Public.

Sprinting off from Aneurin Bevan's statue in Queen Street, Cardiff at 8.30am on Tuesday 10th January, Bevan's runners will eventually arrive at the Department of Health in Whitehall, London, next Sunday afternoon, 15th January, where we hope there'll be a crowd to welcome them.

NHSCA co-chairman, Dr Clive Peedell and NHSCA member, Dr David Wilson, will be running the 160 miles in 6 days (6 marathons), to highlight the opposition of the vast majority of the medical profession to the Health and Social Care Bill, which is due to go to the report stage in the House of Lords this month.

Aneurin Bevan would have been horrified at this coalition's assault on the NHS. One thing is for sure: he will be behind **Bevan's Run** all the way.

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See Nottingham Indymedia for coverage of the stall on Saturday
- see [Notts-KONP - NHS Cameron Postcards Stall](#)

For photographs from Saturday please contact

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Notes to editors:

The "Postcard from Bevan" can be viewed here:

<http://bevansrun.blogspot.com/2011/12/postcard-from-bevans-runners.html>

The postcard calls on Mr Cameron and Mr Lansley to withdraw the Health and Social Care Bill for the following reasons:

1. If enacted the bill will inevitably lead to increasing NHS privatisation and commercialisation, which will further undermine Bevan's founding principles of the NHS.

2. The reforms lack democratic legitimacy. This is clearly a major top down reorganisation, with abolition of PCTs and SHAs and the creation of a regulated competitive external market, which will see an end to the NHS as a publicly funded and publicly provided healthcare system. This was not in your election manifesto, not in the coalition agreement, and not what the public voted for at the last General election.

3. The bill lacks professional support. The BMA and RCGP have both publicly called for the bill to be withdrawn, despite the fact that one of the key principles underpinning the reforms was supposed to be clinician empowerment, with GPs at the heart of the reforms. The message from the medical profession could not be clearer in that these reforms are seriously flawed and will be detrimental to the future of the NHS and patient care. Since there is strong evidence that clinical leadership and followership are fundamentally important to successful healthcare reform, this raises serious questions about your decision to plough on with the reforms in the face of such medical opposition.

4. The NHS is under unprecedented financial pressure and coupled with the £20billion QIPP efficiency savings agenda, massive reorganisation of the NHS at this time carries a high risk of service fragmentation and failure. There is evidence that some of the major changes that have already taken place on the ground are threatening service stability, even before the legislation has been enacted. The reforms will also drive up costs due to the increased bureaucracy

and administration of the new healthcare market and the drive to turn patients into “consumers” of healthcare through the choice agenda.

5. Market driven healthcare systems erode professional values and the public service ethos, which is the glue that sticks the NHS together.

6. The NHS is one of the greatest achievements in modern British political history. Public satisfaction with the NHS is at an all time high according to the latest British Social Attitudes survey. The NHS is also one of the most highly performing and cost effective healthcare systems in the world, especially when it comes to equity and access to healthcare. The NHS logo has become one of the most powerful brands in the UK, carrying over 95% recognition among the general public, and very strong levels of credibility, authority and trust.