



Wed 22 June 7:30pm sharp
The Casa, 29 Hope St. L1 9BQ

Dr. Jacky Davis

(BMA National Council, Keep Our NHS Public)

Andy Ford

(UNITE, National Blood Service)

UNISON and UNITE members

(Royal Liverpool & Broadgreen Hosps. Joint Staff-side)

Dave Walsh

(Vice-Sec., Liverpool TUC)

Organised by Liverpool TUC

Royal L'pool & Broadgreen Hosps Joint Staff-side
Keep Our NHS Public Merseyside

Tinkering with Lansley's Health & Social Care Bill is not enough. The Bill needs to be scrapped.

The changes proposed by Mr Lansley in Parliament do not reverse the fundamental purpose of the Bill, which is to set the NHS up as a commercial market. Saying that it will be illegal to favour one type of provider over another - rather than making the NHS the preferred provider - confirms the government's intention. Indeed, Andrew Lansley has reassured Tory MPs that the core principles remain.

Professor Wendy Savage from Keep Our NHS Public says:

"Mr Lansley's stated aims can be achieved without this legislation, which has plunged the NHS into chaos as attested by the daily litany of cuts and closures around the country. He needs to come clean about the real purpose of the Bill: the creation of a market in health care".

David Cameron assures us there will not be privatisation of the NHS but this is already happening with many services outsourced to private companies. The recent shocking examples of how the care of elderly patients and those with learning difficulties can suffer when company profit is more important than the care given to residents should be a warning. Commercial competition will still be imposed on the NHS with predictable and disastrous consequences. Patients in the NHS also suffer when a business model takes precedence, as we saw in Mid-Staffordshire.

David Cameron says that 'no change is not an option' but the changes in this

Bill are not those needed to care for the increasing number of elderly patients. They will not reduce the costs of improved drugs and technologies. This Bill should be scrapped. A proper, wide-ranging debate needs to be held on how to improve care in the NHS and, at the same time, make the £15-20 billion savings (a figure recommended by McKinsey in 2009 and never challenged by MPs or the media).

To begin the debate: abolishing the current 'regulated market' would save £10 bn a year and significantly reduce bureaucracy. The NHS should be given the status of 'preferred provider'. Scrapping PFI would save billions more.

The NHS is a cost efficient, equitable health care system and still costs less of our GDP than most of the OECD countries. MPs will have a chance to throw the Bill out at 3rd reading and we hope they will not be beguiled by the rhetoric but this time read the amended Bill carefully before they vote.

More info: www.keepournhspublic.com