

Fighting for Pensions...



Against NHS Privatisation

Healthworkers fighting for their pensions are defending the NHS itself. Here's how.

The Government attack on public sector pensions is designed to remove the barrier to privatising the Welfare State. The Hutton Report is explicit:

...existing public service pensions can be a barrier to the outsourcing and mutualisation of public services.

Pensions are under attack so that staff can be transferred to the private sector, without their current pensions.

The first step means nurses, health visitors, ambulance workers, porters, secretaries... will work an extra 8 years and pay higher contributions before getting a pension worth only 85% or less than they were promised.

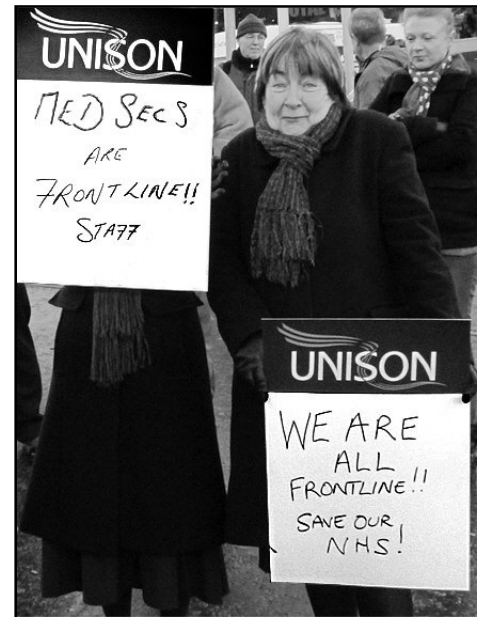
We all rely on the NHS. Some pensioners can remember life before 1948, when healthcare depended entirely on your ability to pay.

Selling off the NHS

The Coalition Government claims they will "never privatise the NHS". It's a lie.

On 10 Nov Cameron said "I want to know how we drive the NHS to be a fantastic business for Britain."

In Liverpool, private companies are bidding for 10 practices whose GPs are currently employed directly by the NHS. Circle, the private company now running Hinchingbrooke Hospital in Cambridge, mentioned Whiston Hospital in their share prospectus when a PFI funding



crisis hit Whiston and St Helens. Circle now plan a Manchester "gateway" to the North-West.

The Royal is pressing ahead with its own PFI scheme costing £500m more than public finance, approved after a rigged Value for Money calculation.

Health Bill

The Health & Social Care Bill currently going through the House of Lords, will open the floodgates for privatisation. The Bill means, in England:

- the Sec of State is no longer required to provide or secure a comprehensive health service
- there will be no requirement to commission a full range of NHS care for every member of the public
- the public sector cannot be the "preferred provider" of healthcare
- no limit to the number of private patients treated in NHS hospitals
- Foundation Trust hospitals will compete with each other and the private sector

- Clinical Commissioning Groups will ration healthcare, overseen by an unaccountable Commissioning Board
- Monitor's role in enforcing competition law by preventing "anti-competitive behaviour" will override all of its other responsibilities
- all this with £20bn+ worth of cuts
- it's a recipe for health disasters.

Private Commissioning 'Support' Organisations

Last week the British Medical Association came out fighting to dump the Health Bill, when a leaked document revealed that GPs will have very little control over what healthcare is actually commissioned, supposedly the main purpose of the Bill. By 2016 large private companies will run the Commissioning Support Organisations which will provide the evidence and guidance for any decisions.

Secret Risk Assessment

Even while the House of Lords examine the Bill, the Government is refusing to release their own Risk Assessment of the consequences of their massive top-down reorganisation of the NHS.

No-one voted for this.

We need a mass movement to stop the Health Bill and defend the NHS from privatisation. The strike to protect public sector pensions is a great first step.



Keep our NHS public

www.KeepOurNHSpublic.com

Keep Our NHS Public Merseyside

KeepOurNHSpublicMerseyside@yahoo.com