



Stroud ...Save our NHS

As of October 1st 2011, Stroud General and Stroud General Hospital and other NHS services in Gloucestershire will be run by a social enterprise and not the NHS...

- Were YOU consulted?
- Did YOU want this?

Make your voice heard on September 24th at 10.30am on Park Road (below Maternity Hospital) to join us in protest

For more information see: www.stroudagainstcuts.co.uk



Social Enterprise no way,
We deserve our say...

80% of the public say that they don't want any more 'competition' in the NHS. The experts agree competition in healthcare is unfair and inefficient. Everywhere that has balloted on such changes has resulted in rejection by 90% of staff, but there's been no ballot here. NHS management is racing ahead, refusing to consult or even inform either public or staff before forcing these untested plans through (whilst claiming the point of the SET is to be 'inclusive').

The County Council has helped keep these plans secret, rather than scrutinising them.

A social enterprise in the Forest of Dean quickly went bust losing £200,000. We demand that the process is STOPPED (as it has been elsewhere). Local communities along with health workers trade unions need to build a major offensive to demand a publicly owned NHS.

The 'Social Enterprise Trust' – What does it mean?

- As a private company, it will be run as a business; it will have HIGHER COSTS including at least £3MILLION A YEAR in unnecessary VAT, and massive administration costs to replace the back office services it currently gets free from the central NHS. This money will have to come from patient care.

- It is a FIGLEAF FOR PRIVATISATION of our health service. The contract will run for a maximum of 3 years (or much less, if commissioners judge it to be 'failing') and then all services will be opened to any private company that wants to run them for profit. In Hull, where the first transfer of NHS services to a 'social enterprise' took place, several award-winning clinics were fully privatised within months, resulting in shortages of staff and even bandages (whilst administration costs ballooned).

- It will mean POORER CARE, FEWER SKILLED STAFF, and LONGER WAITING LISTS, as corners are cut to turn a surplus and to pay for admin. £20 billion of cuts to NHS jobs and services have already started, and this isolated 'social enterprise' will be poorly placed to resist them. Instead, the cap on NHS hospitals & clinics earning income from private patients will be lifted, meaning that those who can afford to pay will be able to jump the queue far more easily, at the expense of the rest of us.

- All decisions about care, contracts etc. could be made BEHIND LOCKED DOORS with no accountability to the public. They are already using the excuse of 'commercial confidentiality' to hide their plans from the public.

These changes are unnecessary, expensive, and dangerous. No-one locally has been asked if they want them. The local community and health trade unions together, can stop them.

The Health and Social Care Bill – How does it fit in? Currently the government is trying to force its Health and Social Care Bill through parliament. Aside from forcing unwilling GP's to become accountants, this bill also removes all barriers to privatisation by opening up the NHS to EU competition rules and by removing the government's responsibility to provide a comprehensive free health care system. Trusts which have left the NHS to become a social enterprise will be the most vulnerable to takeover by healthcare multinationals.

