



campaign for a new workers' party

National Health Services at risk in East Berkshire

Fight to save NHS services at Heatherwood Hospital and in our area

The Berkshire East NHS Primary Care Trust are carrying out a public consultation on the future of health services in East Berkshire, including Bracknell Town and the surrounding areas. This consultation will finish on the 14th April 2008, it is vital that local residents participate in this consultation if we are to protect our local health services.

Among the preferred recommendations is that the 55 inpatient beds for the mentally ill currently sited at Heatherwood Hospital be moved to Upton Hospital in Slough. This would mean that all local residents in need of mental healthcare including mothers and babies, older patients, people with eating disorders and general psychiatric patients would in future have to travel to Slough. As is even admitted in the consultation documents this will mean at least a 40 minute journey by car and much longer by public transport. This will affect not only patients but families and friends wishing to visit. We must demand that these services remain at Heatherwood and if necessary improve facilities on this site rather than increase the stress of travelling long distances on patients and families.

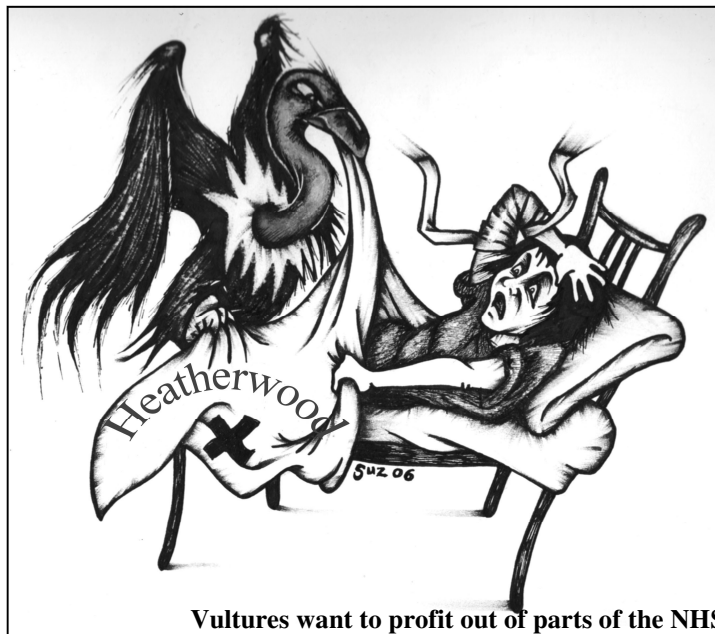
There is also the fear that services at Heatherwood are being downsized and if these proposals are implemented, then questions over the future of the hospital could also be posed in the long term. Whilst it is planned that low risk planned births will remain at Heatherwood, it is concerning that more complicated deliveries will go further afield. Is it good practice for patients at higher risk of more complications having to travel to Wrexham Park and being very far away from their community support and for an extended hospital stay. The documents are vague about the sorts of operations and treatments that will be available in Heatherwood, it talks about knee and hip operations, what will happen to the local specialist services of cardiac and respiratory care currently sited at Heatherwood.

And even the vague reference to cancer care including radiotherapy coming to Bracknell should be approached with caution. It may be that in line with Government policy this unit will in effect be privatised and run by a private company.

We are concerned that unless we make our views known we will wake up and find our health services decimated in Bracknell. All the options proposed will lead to a reduction of NHS services at Heatherwood therefore we should make it clear that we reject all the options proposed regarding Heatherwood.

What you can do

- We urge everyone to fill in the questionnaire, ring 0800 288 9807 for a copy or complete it on line at www.rightcarerightplace.nhs.uk.
- Attend the consultation meetings and have your say
- Join the Campaign for a New Workers Party (see overleaf).
- **No run down or closure of Heatherwood Hospital.**
- **No removal of Mental Care beds from Heatherwood.**
- **No privatisation of NHS services in Bracknell.**
- **For a fully funded publicly owned NHS under democratic control**



Vultures want to profit out of parts of the NHS

campaign for a new workers' party

We need a party for the millions not the millionaires!

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT

In the short space of time he has been prime minister, Gordon Brown has proved his credentials as a pro-big business, anti-working class politician and the rightful heir to Tony Blair's legacy of cuts, closures, privatisation and war. Any sort of honeymoon period for Brown was short lived as it soon became clear that he would pursue the same neo-liberal, privatising agenda as Blair. Brown showed his contempt for working class people right from the word go by welcoming into his cabinet Sir Digby Jones, the former head of the bosses organisation the CBI. This is the man described by George Monbiot as "the most Neanderthal boss the CBI has ever had" who opposed the introduction of a minimum wage, has attempted to block corporate manslaughter legislation and is notoriously anti-trade union. This, along with his tea with Thatcher in 10 Downing Street, is a slap in the face to trade unionists whose money still lines the Labour Party's pockets and shows the contempt that Brown & New Labour hold them in. It's clear that there are now three parties of big business; we are determined to build a party that stands up to the bosses and fights in working class peoples interest.

THE TRADE UNIONS

Over 100 years ago trade unionists and socialists joined together to fight for independent political representation for the working class, the result was the Labour Party. Today Labour has joined with the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats in defending big business, leaving trade unionists with no party to defend their interests. In spite of the treachery of New Labour, trade union leaders have donated more than £100 million of their members' money to New Labour since 1997.

COMMUNITY ACTION

The fact that 10,000 people marched recently in Haywards Heath in rural Sussex in opposition to cuts in local NHS Accident and Emergency services is indicative of the growing anger there is up and down the country. Many working class people are becoming involved in anti-cuts campaigning for the first time. The CNWP is committed to working alongside these community activists in campaigning against cuts and privatisation, whilst at the same time linking all these attacks to their root cause. We would like to see groups of CNWP supporters established in every local community, raising the need for a fighting political alternative to the three capitalist parties.

GET INVOLVED

The CNWP welcomes all trade unionists, socialists, community activists and working class people to become supporters. We wish to discuss in an open and democratic way how we can best build a broad new workers' party. The CNWP seeks to link the antiwar, anti-privatisation and other campaigns together with trade unionists in building such a party.



The CNWP believes that some of the demands which will be central to the formation of a new party include:

- Keep health and education public. Stop and reverse cuts in, and sell off of our public services.
- For properly funded, democratically controlled public services for all.
- For decent, affordable public housing for all who want it.
- No to racism and discrimination! Oppose the divisive BNP. No to the specific oppression of people due to their ethnic background, nationality, gender, sexuality, age, disabilities or health.
- For a living wage at least £8 an hour, and a living pension- restore the link with earnings now.
- No to trident nuclear weapons! Spend the £76 billion on public services.
- Ownership and planning of energy and transport, leading to massive investment and expansion of renewable energy and clean public transport.
- Immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- For a democratic republic - a radical extension of democracy including all representatives elected by proportional representation, subject to recall and paid the average wage.
- No to the capitalist profit system. For a democratic socialist society, based on public ownership of the major corporations that dominate the economy, and run to meet the needs of all and to protect our environment for future generations, instead of the profit of the few.

Join the CNWP now
Phone Nick 0776 1574614
www.cnwp.org.uk