



*We are a LOCAL campaign fighting to retain our LOCAL hospital.*

Feb  
2017

*We are proud to also work with other local groups, fighting for their local hospitals, across the UK.*

## NEWSLETTER

**JOIN US SATURDAY 4 MARCH, 12:00pm TAVISTOCK SQUARE, MARCH TO PARLIAMENT**

We must fight to save the NHS from destruction. The threat is real. It is happening now. Hospitals, GPs, mental health, ambulance and community services are on their knees.

Private companies are gaining an ever greater foothold within the NHS. Years of pay restraint has seen the value of NHS staff salaries reduce by 14% since 2010. The Government's Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP's) are a smokescreen for a massive programme of hospital and community service closures, and are its latest instrument for privatisation.

The NHS is one of our greatest achievements. We cannot allow it to be undermined and ultimately destroyed. **Join us on Saturday 4 March and send a clear message to this Government. Tickets—£12.50. Available Huddersfield Unison Office 4 New North Parade, Huddersfield HD1 5JP · 01484 511826. Or order online [www.tinyurl.com/glv8u58](http://www.tinyurl.com/glv8u58)**

### Joint Health Scrutiny Committee Meet Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) 23rd Feb 2017

The Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Scrutiny Committee's last meeting to discuss the proposed reconfiguration ended in farce with no decision being taken! The CCG will not be providing answers to any of Joint Scrutiny's questions but will continue to refer to the Full Business Case which will not be produced until the end of June at the earliest.

In discussing the relationship between the proposals and Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) it is clear the two are inextricably linked and critically the STP includes the financial details of the CCG proposals, including how it will be funded!

**There is no evidence of community based services being improved and extended to support the proposals, in fact there is evidence of these services being reduced e.g. Holme Valley; Slaithwaite Surgery funding crisis**

**There are real concerns about the size of the workforce The CCG will not provide overall numbers of staff until Full Business Case (FBC) but we expect them to propose redundancies.**

There remain real issues relating to finance and the CCG's ballooning deficit. The STP footprint needs to make savings of £1.2 billion. In addition if Private Finance Initiative money is used ( as it was at Calderdale hospital resulting in this current mess) the deficit will in fact increase. It is reckless to put together proposals without clear financial planning.

Transport has been a key concern and it would appear that since the meeting in November nothing has happened apart from advertising for a Chair of a Transport Group. It is unlikely that any report will be produced prior to the FBC being produced. **The CCG has no intention of being accountable to local politicians which makes a legal challenge almost inevitable.**



#### Contact

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#### Events Diary

- Joint Health Scrutiny Committee meet with Clinical Commissioning Group. 23rd February 3pm, Huddersfield Town Hall.
- HandsOffHRI at Slaithwaite Moonraking Festival, Saturday 25th February 6.30 pm
- Health Campaign Groups Together National March for the NHS, London, 4th March 2017.

## Campaigner Spotlight



### Julie Roebuck—Upper Colne Valley Hands Off HRI

I've been married for thirty-five years and have three grown up children, one born at Princess Royal and my younger two at HRI. I help my husband with his business and also work part time with children. We have three Springer Spaniels from a Rescue Centre and a cat, we adopted a few years ago.

I'm a non political person who joined Hands Off HRI, through an open meeting of the Upper Colne Valley Group. Firstly I went along to find out what it was all about. I was horrified to find out what was planned for both HRI and it's A&E. All towns deserve a hospital and an A&E but especially one with such a growing community like Huddersfield with a fantastic University, College and lots of new homes popping up.

I am a member of the Upper Colne Valley Group, which has people from all the political and non political spectrums. We work really well as a team whilst also having fun, plus meeting and talking to amazing people.

During the last 12 months we have raised approximately £3,500 at various events and endeavour to work just as hard this year.



### Helen Robinson—Golcar Hands Off HRI

I am fighting to save our hospital because 15 years ago I started being ill and losing mobility. Having had one major heart attack plus others I, for one, am going to need our hospital.

I have no political agenda and support anyone that is in power in this country, but when I heard of the proposed closure of our A&E I became an active member of Hands Off HRI, creating our local Golcar group.

Golcar have actively posted leaflets and raised money to go towards the legal fight to keep our hospital open and we intend to do the same this year.



### Jenny Tierney—Meltham Hands Off HRI

I worked for Kirklees Council from 1986, in various roles including; School Cleaner, School Lunch Assistant, Day Care Assistant working in specialized Dementia Unit, until I retired in 2010.

I started with the campaign more or less straight away, working with other campaigners I would visit the hospital armed with petitions—I was always available to go where needed.

I joined Deighton and now Meltham Group and I've done lots of fun raising. My most memorable was the sponsored walk; Julie Roebuck was my walking buddy and it was a fabulous day.

I like leafleting and have distributed thousands since the campaign started. I've been bitten by a dog and had a few near misses but it won't stop me delivering leaflets in the future.

## Hands Off HRI Next Steps

The reports of a split in Hands Off HRI have been both misleading and inaccurate.

Behind the campaign, there are around 50-60 people who have been actively involved. **The vast majority have remained with the Official Hands Off HRI Group.**

For this campaign to be successful, it needs to be democratic and inclusive. Unfortunately the 'Let's Save Huddersfield A & E' Facebook Group Page has been neither.

The page disowned the National Demonstration on March 4th against the wishes of the committee running the campaign. And Mr Deitch has started meeting the CCG with Jason McCartney without informing the campaign group or being prepared to explain what is being discussed. **This could jeopardise our legal case.**

We have therefore had to move away from his page and continue our work separately. We do, however, wish to continue to work together on funding and preparing a legal challenge.

Some have claimed we are being run by Socialists and Unison. We have had their support but the vast majority of us are completely new to campaigning, mostly women and passionate about the NHS.

We do recognise that the government are intent on cutting £22 billion from the NHS in the next four years which will see our local services reduced to rubble.

We will be marching with thousands more on March 4th to reverse these plans whilst continuing the fight to save HRI and A & E.

