

**Vote: Roger Nettleship - Safeguard the National Health Service!**

## **Safeguard the Future of the NHS! Support Candidates of the Alternative!**

I am a union representative of South Tyneside hospitals in Jarrow, Hebburn and South Shields. I am standing in this election to give voice to the question on everyone's lips: how can we safeguard the future of the NHS? The answer is that everyone's right to healthcare must be guaranteed. Private control or funding of health care cannot be sanctioned, nor can delivery of health care be market driven.

Over the last 20 years and more, health workers and professionals, patients and the community in South Tyneside have had to fight against cutbacks and hospital closures, as is also the case elsewhere. We have also had to defend the rights and livelihood of health workers and cutbacks in staff under Conservative and Labour governments. Today, we face the biggest threat yet to the NHS hospitals in South Tyneside and all over the country. Hospitals are under-funded and under-staffed. More cuts are on the cards to fund new pay systems as limits are placed on budgets. The government is systematically dismantling the pension scheme of over-worked health workers, forcing them to work longer to achieve even lower pensions.



### **THE THREAT TO HOSPITALS IS REAL!**

The government is forcing the NHS to sign contracts with privately-owned treatment and diagnostic centres and diverting investment away from the NHS to pay the profits of these companies.

The Primary Health Care Trust in South Tyneside, like other Trusts, were told they will have to spend 15% of their budget this year in the private sector and that the government would like this to increase to 30% in the future. This means that South Tyneside District Hospital, Palmer Hospital, Primrose Hill Hospital, all the clinics and Monkton Hospital are, or will be, under threat of more cut back in services and closures by the next election.

Already the gynaecology ward and an orthopaedic ward have been merged this year in cutbacks to save a £4 million shortfall in the funding of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust. Also, many are concerned about the closure of Monkton Hall Hospital and what facilities will remain for patients with learning difficulties.

## **THE FRAUD OF “CHOICE”!**

The government says that the issue is giving “choice”. This “choice” is a cruel fraud aimed at turning health care into a packaged and saleable commodity for profit. Such “choice” will not prevent ill health, or provide the best facilities for diagnosis and treatment when people become ill.

The material resources that the people of South Shields, Jarrow and Hebburn and other areas have built up at great sacrifice through subscriptions and then taxes over the 20th century to provide health care to the people are being starved of investment, or sold off.

## **OUTLAW THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN PUBLIC SERVICES!**

The private sector is utilising the public services in Britain as a source of huge profits. The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and selling and reselling of PFI contracts for new hospitals and schools is now netting big business and financial institutions billions of pounds in profits. Funds that could have been invested in the health, education and public services.

No new contracts must be signed, steps taken to bring back all private health care under public control, and a public investigation launched into the privateers with a view to reclaiming the huge profits for the public purse. Health workers and professionals should be involved in setting the standards of care and staffing in the health service.

## **HEALTH CARE IS A RIGHT!**

Everyone has a right to health care at the highest level that society can provide. Investment in health means investing in the National Health Service to safeguard its future. It means ending the charges in elderly care, dental care and on prescriptions. **THIS IS THE PEOPLE’S CHOICE!**

## **SUPPORT CANDIDATES OF THE ALTERNATIVE!**

Instead of bringing parties to power, every collective should bring forward their own politicians that are directly accountable to them!

Vote for candidates of the alternative as the new way forward that will increasingly break the mould of British politics and put the concerns of the people centre stage in the political life of the country!

Vote for candidates of the alternative, like myself, that stand against privatisation, racism, fascism and war and for the recognition of all the inviolable rights of the people, for democratic renewal of the political process and for governments that outlaw any and all British involvement in wars of aggression!

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