

Chesterfield Royal Hospital reveals plans to privatise essential services

The Trust running Chesterfield Hospital has plans to go ahead and privatise its medical device management and decontamination services. This is an essential service for safe and effective clinical services.

Labour Candidate for North East Derbyshire, Chris Peace said: "I am deeply concerned that this move to privatise essential hospital services is planned to go ahead. Staff have raised serious disquiet about how this has been handled by the Trust. I have discussed this with staff, Labour candidates and the Trade Unions and we are extremely worried about the continued fragmentation and privatisation plans for our NHS"

Labour Candidate for Bolsover, Dennis Skinner said: "Even while the Tories are denying their plans to sell off parts of the NHS, this is happening right in front of our eyes at our own local hospital. You can't believe a word Boris Johnson says"

Labour Candidate for Chesterfield, Toby Perkins said: " NHS privatisation isn't a political claim, it's a fact. This is a crucial service that will leave the public service and will be run with private profit rather than public service the main driver. People can endorse this approach by voting Tory or they can stop it by voting Labour, it's that simple. "

Staff and Trade Union representatives were already very disturbed by the transfer of more than 700 staff at the hospital to a wholly owned subsidiary company in March this year. This planned privatisation of hospital services is distressing news for staff who are already demoralised. The Tories are hell bent on pursuing the privatisation route for our NHS and this is bound to have a long term impact on patient care.

Notes:

Labour Plans for our NHS

- To ensure quality care across both physical and mental health, Labour's NHS Rescue Plan will mean: Increasing the total Department of Health and Social Care budget to £178bn in 2023-24 – an average annual increase of 4.3%;
 - Increasing the NHS England resource budget to £154.9 billion in 2023-24 to restore constitutional standards on waiting times and access, including ensuring 95 per cent of patients are treated within 18 weeks, improve A&E performance and radically improve cancer survival rates;
 - This will mean a real-terms increase of £26bn for day-to-day NHS spending from 2018-19 to 2023-24 – the period over which the Conservatives have promised £20bn;
 - Guarantee a greater priority for mental health and wellbeing than ever before with an extra £1.6 billion NHS spending per year to fund counselling services for schools, community mental health hubs for young people, invest in community services for severe mental illness and ensure high quality liaison and 24/7 crisis care for people living with poor mental health;
 - Free prescriptions and car parking, the costs of which are not included in these figures;
 - Protecting the NHS from Boris Johnson's sell-out Brexit deal with Donald Trump which risks funnelling £500 million per week out of the NHS to big drugs companies.

To rebuild the NHS, Labour's NHS Rescue Plan will:

- Increase NHS capital budgets by £15 billion over a Parliament to rebuild NHS hospitals and community facilities and clear the maintenance backlog, funded from Labour's Social Transformation Fund;
 - Deliver a Green New Deal for our NHS so every trust can reduce its carbon footprint;
 - Provide a new £2 billion strategic mental health infrastructure fund to abolish dormitory wards and make every inpatient setting safe for patients, invest in more beds to end out of area placements and roll out a fleet of crisis ambulances;
 - Invest an extra £2.5 billion to overhaul the primary care estate so that GPs can deliver better local care in their communities;
 - Provide an extra £1.5 billion to increase the numbers of CT and MRI scanners to the OECD average to radically improve diagnostic capacity and improve cancer outcomes;

- Invest further in digital, AI and to ensure transformation of services for the future For NHS staff.

Labour's NHS Rescue Plan will:

- Invest £1 billion in restoring a training bursary for nurses and Continuing Professional Development to help recruit 24,000 extra nurses as well as extra midwives and allied health professionals;
- Expand GP training places to 5000 to create 27 million more appointments with family doctors;
- Invest in mental health support for NHS staff.

For Public Health Services Labour's NHS Rescue Plan will:

- Deliver a £1 billion increase in the annual Public Health budget including an extra £100 million for addiction services, an extra £100 million for obesity services, an extra £100 million for public mental health services, £75 million for sexual health services, an extra £75 million for 0-5 services and more investment in smoking cessation services;
- Invest in the public health nurse workforce delivering an extra 4,800 health visitors and school nurses.