

Demonstration

Thursday 5 November, 12.30-1.30pm

NO TO LOCAL NHS CUTS NO TO HOSPITAL CLOSURES

- Closure of Halesworth and Southwold hospitals
- Cutting beds at Northgate and All Hallows hospitals
- Placing patients in private care homes

Following yet another 'consultation', health service bosses will make a decision on cuts to the local NHS. Make your voice heard at this demonstration against cuts and help to defend the NHS

HealthEast, 1 Common Lane North, Beccles, NR34 9BN
(near Morrisons and Brand of Beccles)

Called by Lowestoft Coalition Against the Cuts

We didn't vote for these cuts and this is our alternative*...

End tax dodging believed to cost £150 billion a year

Tax the rich

Stop the disastrous foreign wars, expenditure on weapons of mass destruction and invest in green jobs

Stop the bankers paying themselves obscene bonuses

Levy a Robin Hood tax on bank turnover

*Resolution passed at LCAC launch rally - 2 March, 2011

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- Support LCAC by joining our leafleting every Saturday, 11-1pm, in the town centre precinct, outside the Britten Centre.
- Join our email list - keep up to date with activity in your area.
- Forward this leaflet and pass it onto friends and workmates.
- Want to know more? We can supply a speaker for your group or trade union branch.

Contact us

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LOWESTOFT COALITION
AGAINST THE CUTS

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OVERWHELMING VERDICT ON LOCAL NHS: NO TO CLOSURES - NO TO PRIVATISATION

Health East's consultation on the future of community hospitals has concluded. Only 21% supported the closure of hospitals in Southwold and Halesworth; even fewer wanted the beds in Northgate and All Hallows scrapped. The consultation was an unquestioned success. Extra meetings were needed to cater for demand and over 1100 returned the detailed questionnaire. This is an overwhelming verdict.

Out of hospital teams are good for some but hospital beds are needed for others, both for minor treatments and for convalescence close to home. Lowestoft Hospital has already gone and the 21 beds retained in Beccles to service vast swathes of Norfolk and Suffolk are too few and too distant. There is already critical pressure on the James Paget hospital. The lead consultant in A&E, Duncan Peacock, says it is an illusion that the NHS can work with fewer beds: "The reality is we need more beds."

The NHS is faced with an increase in the number of, particularly elderly, patients, yet it was told to find £20bn of "efficiency savings" over five years. Staff paid for this through frozen salaries. Now they have to find another £20bn. It needs adequate funding not cuts.

The purpose of the plan put forward by Health

East's CEO Andy Evans is to cut £4.3m from the health budget. Closing and selling off hospital buildings and sending patients to private care homes is the Evans' formula. In Reydon, near Southwold, the NHS is proving land for a care home. In Halesworth land acquired for public use will be built on. Andy Evans boasts of his decision to consult. Will he abide by the results or will closures and privatisation be forced upon us?



The Patrick Stead Hospital, Halesworth

THE NHS AND SOCIAL CARE

It isn't just community hospitals. The local mental health trust is in special measures and in massive debt; the James Paget Hospital faces escalating deficits and is in official dispute with Health East over funding. Two sur-

geries in Lowestoft, one in the vaunted new health centre, have been closed down by court order. Nine Lowestoft care homes are failing the Care Quality Commission's criteria; some have failed repeatedly yet they remain open. Care at home is already skeletal. In a country which is awash with ostentatious wealth the funding for all these services is being cut further. Join Lowestoft Coalition Against the Cuts to fight the cuts and privatisations.

NOV 5 - LOCAL DEMO - DETAILS OVERLEAF

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