

THE NHS IS UNDER THREAT

Devious and incompetent Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, is going for broke in announcing the imposition of new terms and conditions on junior doctors. Doctors and other hospital staff already work at the week-end but Hunt claims that a "seven-day NHS" is necessary to prevent unnecessary deaths.



He intends to do this by forcing staff to work Saturdays and Sundays while cutting their pay for unsociable hours. His claims that additional deaths at the weekend were the result of doctors not being available were totally rejected, not just by the doctors but by statisticians, health experts and MPs.

The doctors say that stretching resources over seven days, forcing them into longer and more arduous rotas and removing safeguards against excessive working hours will worsen the state of an already demoralised workforce. The dispute is about safety and the future of the NHS. A "seven-day NHS" needs seven-day resources.

Last week the James Paget Hospital in Gorleston reported that it was short of 280 medical staff and three patients were held on trolleys for over 12 hours. In the last few weeks the hospital was put on "black alert" and reported a "major incident" - both ways of saying that the hospital was unable to cope with the quantity of patients. It will be running a deficit of £4.9m this year.

Local community hospitals are being closed; mental health services, the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and the Ambulance Trust all are in crisis. There is a shortage of GPs and surgeries are closing. Demands for more "efficiency savings" at a time of increasing demand are a fraud and it is a fiction that the NHS is "protected". Repetition does not make it true. The NHS is deliberately being starved of funds. A deficit one year points to rationing, charges for treatment and privatisation proposals the next.

THIS INVOLVES US ALL

Junior doctors are not just fighting for themselves. These dedicated staff who already work under stress and with burdens which approach breaking point. They work in a service which is deliberately being run down. The implication for the rest of NHS staff and for the NHS itself if they are beaten is enormous.

Urge your union to support the junior doctors. Tell your councillors, your MP, your party (if you have one) that you expect them to support the doctors. It is vital.

There is an alternative. The government intends to spend up to £100bn on Trident, it has cut taxes on the corporations and on the wealthy. Tax evasion flourishes. This country has never been so wealthy. Who can claim that the money isn't there?

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

- Support LCAC by joining our leafletting 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

lowestoftagainstthecuts@hotmail.co.uk
01502 569174 / 568684 / 574010



LOWESTOFT VOTES: DOCTORS 100, JEREMY HUNT 3 LOWESTOFT DOES SUPPORT THE JUNIOR DOCTORS

On Tuesday 26 April, the first day of an all-out strike by junior doctors, Lowestoft Coalition Against the Cuts tested public attitudes in Lowestoft's shopping precinct.

Dr Trevor Killeen and colleagues Chloe Wade and Ben Kirk from the James Paget Hospital answered questions about the new contract, about the stresses that they work under and about their fears for the future of the NHS. No-one asked the doctors if they were trying to topple the government as an anonymous government source claimed. No-one believed Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt's, claim that he had to honour an election commitment to provide a "7-day NHS" without providing the resources.

In little more than an hour dozens came to speak to the doctors and to vote. In a yes/no ballot which asked the simple question, "Do you support the junior doctors?", one hundred voted Yes, only 3 voted No.

The public is on the side of the junior doctors. The NHS needs more money while the government's priority is to cut the top rate of tax, to cut corporation tax and to invest in Trident rather than in the NHS.

Like any dodgy private company that wins an NHS



for the doctors, it is about being able to care for people, to make people well."

Dr Kattakayam also expressed deep concern about the future, "This contract will worsen treatment and impact on recruitment. Half of the doctors I graduated with have already been lost to the NHS. A run-down NHS will be ripe for privatisation and I fear that is the government's intention. Most of our patients are elderly, how can they afford to pay for treatment?"

www.lowestoftagainstthecuts.org.uk
www.facebook.com/lowestoftagainstthecuts