

Stroud Against the Cuts supports the Campaign for an NHS Reinstatement Bill.

We have been running stalls recently to build support for the NHS Reinstatement Bill - a piece of legislation designed to deal with the problems that have been created in our health service. The Bill will be in Parliament on the 4th November, and we have been encouraging people to write to local MP Neil Carmichael to encourage him to attend the debate and support the bill [You can copy and edit or send this text to Neil Carmichael via email or post to him at House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

]. Below is a copy of the letter, followed by further information about why the Bill is needed and what is happening to our NHS.

We will visit Neil Carmichael on Friday 28th October, and hold stalls on Saturday 29th. If you can attend/help, please contact Christine Stockwell: chris [AT] candmstockwell [DOT NET], or phone James Beecher on 07734 058789. We would particularly like to hear from people able to help with stalls in Dursley, Nailsworth, and Stonehouse.

Letter to Neil Carmichael

Dear Neil Carmichael,

The NHS Reinstatement Bill is scheduled for its second reading on 4th November 2016. I urge you to ensure it is granted time for debate in the House of Commons, and to support this Bill - which has cross party support.

The NHS Bill will provide the legal framework to:

- Ø Restore the NHS as an accountable public service

- Ø Reverse 25 years of marketisation in the NHS

- Ø End contracting out of services, which destabilises and fragments the NHS; enabling billions of pounds currently spent on “transaction costs” to be re-directed to frontline services

- Ø Support integration of health with social care

- Ø Remove the NHS from EU competition law

- Ø Restore the duty of government to provide health services across England

The present costly, chaotic, fragmented and ineffective system urgently needs to be replaced by one that will allocate resources according to need, through a fair, democratically accountable and integrated planning system, removing the market and competition from the NHS. The Government's current Sustainability and Transformation Plans will only perpetuate the market system. We need our services to be **comprehensive, transparent, equitable and affordable.**

The only way all these goals can be attained is through full public ownership of our NHS. Such a change requires legislation to win back our NHS in England.
Please support the bill.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible

Yours,

Stroud Against the Cuts

Why do we need an NHS Reinstatement bill?

The NHS has been undermined as a public service over the last 25 years with increased outsourcing of services to private companies. From the **privatisation of cleaning** in hospitals which led to a rise in hospital super-bugs (MRSA); to the setting up of an expensive system of buying and selling services within the NHS (

purchaser/ provider split

); through

costly PFI

mortgages on new NHS buildings; through the expensively-run

privatised social care

of our elderly and more vulnerable adults; closures and transfers, many hospitals in Gloucestershire

reducing beds by 100s

; NHS money going on

new private facilities

instead of put in to the current ones; NHS trusts being run by

private companies

; the

fully marketised

structure introduced by the 2012 Act; the

reduction of our A&E services
and the
privatisation of many services
locally and nationally.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 broke up the national system for needs-based health care planning in England, replacing it with a market model, which is destabilising and fragmenting NHS provision, AND which costs more to run than the public system . □ **The NHS Reinstatement bill has cross-party support.**

It will restore the NHS as an accountable public service, where taxpayer's money goes to care not profit.

Can we afford the National Health Service?

According to the national press, NHS trusts are running a deficit of anything up to £3 billion. Apparently, drastic action must be undertaken or services will break down as hospitals become bankrupt. In spite of this, the NHS is being made to find savings of £22 billion. Yet an analysis of the Department of Health's latest Annual Report and Accounts by Health Care Audit, a group of finance and business consultants, show that the DoH **does** have adequate money to cover the deficit. They simply choose not to. Only one side of the finance story is being printed in our national papers.

We are the world's sixth richest country. We **CAN** afford a comprehensive health service for all, which will maintain the health of the nation and contribute to our economic well-being.

What are Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs)?

In her speech introducing the bill, Margaret Greenwood MP explained:

“England has been divided into 44 areas, each of which is required to come up with an STP. The first priority for the STP is that Clinical Commissioning Groups and providers must cut expenditure, stay within budget for 2016-17 and continue to do so for the next 4 years in order to be entitled to access centrally controlled transformation funding. They will face tough choices – they could sell assets, cut services, ration services or actually charge for services. we can expect to see hospitals taking private patients to generate extra cash, putting NHS patients at the back of the queue.

The concept of a comprehensive service free at the point of use will be lost within a generation, and we will all face the real possibility of having to buy health insurance, just as people do in America.

....these hospitals are ours. They have been paid for out of our taxes and are run by our NHS staff – they are not the Government's to give away. **This bill provides a viable alternative to the current system** .”

Yes to

Public ownership of NHS assets

Comprehensive care from high quality staff

Enough Doctors and Nurses to keep our hospitals open and safe

Legally protected from dodgy deals like TTIP

An NHS that's for everyone without discrimination –its founding vision

Health Secretary has the duty to provide a comprehensive, secure NHS

No to

Private companies cherry picking easy operations, quick procedures, easy cash

Competing NHS trusts, fighting off bids from private companies like Virgin

Longer waiting times; more bed closures, rationing of operations & aids

Dangerously underfunded emergency & maternity services

Expanding insurance based care