

Protest against the transfer of Stroud Hospital and other Gloucestershire Hospitals and NHS services out of the NHS and into a Social Enterprise Company. Called by Stroud Against the Cuts.

Meet 10.30 for 11.00am, Saturday 24th September

Park Road (below the Maternity Hospital)

March to the Sub Rooms for a Rally at 12noon

- Keep our NHS Public: don't hand our services to a Social Enterprise

Please help us to publicise this event by spreading the information above and by printing and distributing poster and flyers, click the links that follow for the poster and flyer files:

[www.stroudagainstcuts.co.uk/files/SATC NHS Protest illustrated flyer.pdf](http://www.stroudagainstcuts.co.uk/files/SATC%20NHS%20Protest%20illustrated%20flyer.pdf)

[www.stroudagainstcuts.co.uk/files/SATC poster 2 A4.pdf](http://www.stroudagainstcuts.co.uk/files/SATC%20poster%20A4.pdf)

**On 1st October, if Gloucestershire NHS Management has its way,
Stroud Hospital, 8**

other local hospitals, and 4,000 NHS nurses, health visitors, physiotherapists, podiatrists,

etc, will all leave the NHS and be forced into a secretive 'Social Enterprise Trust',

a registered company which will then 'compete' with other 'providers'.

The transfer to social enterprise is a step to privatisation. It is being forced through

without proper consultation of staff and no consultation of the public, and it has not

been scrutinised by Gloucestershire County Council (through the Health & Social Care

Overview & Scrutiny Committee). At the same time the government's Health and Social

Care Bill will also accelerate privatisation of our NHS.

'The NHS will exist for as long as there are people left with faith to fight for it' Nye Bevan, founder of the NHS

80% of the public say that they don't want any more 'competition' in the NHS. The experts

agree competition in healthcare is unfair and inefficient. Everywhere that has balloted on

such changes has resulted in rejection by 90% of staff, but there's been no ballot here. NHS

management is racing ahead, refusing to consult or even inform either public or staff before

forcing these untested plans through (whilst claiming the point of the SET is to be 'inclusive').

The County Council has helped keep these plans secret, rather than scrutinising them.

A social enterprise in the Forest of Dean quickly went bust losing £200,000. We demand that

the process is STOPPED (as it has been elsewhere). Local communities along with health

workers trade unions need to build a major offensive to demand a publicly owned NHS.

The 'Social Enterprise Trust' – What does it mean?

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least £3MILLION A YEAR in unnecessary VAT, and massive administration costs to replace

the back office services it currently gets free from the central NHS. This money will have to

come from patient care.

- It is a FIGLEAF FOR PRIVATISATION of our health service. The contract will

run for a

maximum of 3 years (or much less, if commissioners judge it to be 'failing') and then all

services will be opened to any private company that wants to run them for profit. In Hull,

where the first transfer of NHS services to a 'social enterprise' took place, several awardwinning

clinics were fully privatised within months, resulting in shortages of staff and even

bandages (whilst administration costs ballooned).

- It will mean POORER CARE, FEWER SKILLED STAFF, and LONGER WAITING LISTS, as

corners are cut to turn a surplus and to

**pay for admin. £20 billion of cuts to
NHS jobs and**

**services have already started, and this
isolated 'social enterprise' will be
poorly placed to**

**resist them. Instead, the cap on NHS
hospitals & clinics earning income
from private patients**

**will be lifted, meaning that those who
can afford to pay will be able to jump
the queue far**

more easily, at the expense of the rest of us.

- All decisions about care, contracts etc. could be made BEHIND LOCKED DOORS with no

accountability to the public. They are already using the excuse of 'commercial confidentiality'

to hide their plans from the public.

These changes are unnecessary, expensive, and dangerous. No-one locally has been asked

if they want them. The local community and health trade unions together, can stop them.

As a private company, it will be run as a business; it will have HIGHER COSTS including at

**The Health and Social Care Bill
– How does it fit in?**

**government is trying to force
its Health and Social Care Bill
through parliament. Aside from**

**forcing unwilling GP's to
become accountants, this bill
also removes all barriers to
privatisation**

by opening up the NHS to EU

**competition rules and by
removing the government's**

**responsibility to provide a
comprehensive free health
care system. Trusts which
have left the**

**NHS to become a social
enterprise will be the most
vulnerable to takeover by
healthcare**

multinationals.

Currently the

