

Stop the cuts

Stop the privatisation

Things are about to get *tougher*
for NHS staff and patients.

**£34 MILLION CUTS IN HEALTH ACROSS NHS
TRUSTS IN OXFORDSHIRE BY APRIL 2006.**

**As the NHS staggers under cuts, closures
and redundancies £3 billion of NHS money
is promised to private health companies.**

Demonstrate

Saturday 19th November

Assemble noon

Bonn Square, Oxford town centre

Called by Keep our NHS Public Campaign,
Oxfordshire UNISON health branch
and Oxford & District TUC

Patricia Hewitt Minister for Health, has announced that a further £3 billion of NHS funds are to be spent in the private sector. At the same time there are £35 million cuts across Oxfordshire's NHS Trusts on the orders of Thames Valley Health authority. These cuts have been condemned by MPs Andrew Smith and Evan Harris.

Trust managers have admitted that some patients will no longer receive treatment. Oxford Radcliffe Trusts has talked about canceling all non-urgent surgery from January. Horton General is set to lose gynaecological services, the Pain Clinic is to close. Mental health is closing at least 5 wards/departments and Occupational Therapy services. The Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre has already closed one ward with more expected.

The cuts are so severe that NHS managers are struggling to come up with enough plans to meet the health authority's demands.

Already the government is encouraging the private sector to cream off the most simple treatments, leaving the NHS to cope with the more complicated ones.

The Independent Treatment Centres experiment forced onto Oxfordshire's PCTs have treated fewer patients than planned and cost more than the NHS services that previously delivered them. At the same time the use of private health services have damaged NHS services by taking their funds; one example are the operations at the private Manor hospital taking money from the Nuffield Orthopedic Centre.

The first wave of private companies awarded contracts received a 15 percent premium from the department of health - effectively a subsidy that should go towards permanently improving our NHS services.

The government agenda means starving publicly owned hospitals and treatment centres of cash, and forcing through free market principles that do not make any economic sense.

Health campaigners force government to step back.

Health campaigners have just won a major victory against plans to privatise the management of Oxfordshire's PCTs. The plan would have put the control of the majority of Oxfordshire health services with a private "for profit" company. The outcry against these plans has forced the government to withdraw them for the time being. Now is the time to step up the pressure and secure the future of our health services once and for all.

www.keepournhspublic.org.uk