

Press Release

Campaign Against NHS Privatization in Leicester

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FAO NEWS EDITORS, POLITICAL EDITORS & PICTURE EDITORS

PROTEST – CLOCK TOWER, CITY-CENTRE, LEICESTER, 29.01.2018

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: 12:30 TO 13:30

PROTEST - NHS IN WINTER CRISIS

CAMPAIGNERS ARE STAGING A DEMONSTRATION IN LEICESTER CITY-CENTRE IN SUPPORT OF THE NHS WHICH IS STRUGGLING TO DEAL WITH HUGE PATIENT DEMAND AT A TIME OF THE TIGHTEST FINANCIAL SQUEEZE IN ITS HISTORY.

The dreadful state of our NHS is very much in the news. Locally, University Hospitals Leicester (UHL) has been on Black Alert since January 1st. Routine surgery has been cancelled this month. There have been long waits for ambulances and patients are being treated in the corridor at A&E.

Bob Ball, spokesman for the Campaign against NHS Privatization said: **“The Campaign believes the continuation of austerity funding is damaging the NHS and reducing the quality of health care. (1)**

“In terms of beds, doctors and resources. Our NHS is ranked 28th out of 30 countries for healthcare resources, with fewer doctors, nurses, beds and medical scanners than most wealthy countries.”

Ball added: **“The NHS is currently in the tightest financial squeeze in its history. Until 2010 the NHS received annual increases in funding in line with increases in demand (approx. 4% after inflation). But since then demand has continued to increase, yet funding has only increased by approximately 1.2% leading to deficits in NHS organisations. If nothing is done, by 2021/22, health services in the city and county face a funding gap of nearly £400m.**

“Currently, there are 40,000 nursing vacancies in England and staff shortages in many professions. NHS staff, at all levels need our thanks and support who are 'firefighting' to deal with rising patient demand. They clearly deserve a pay rise when their wages have virtually stagnated in real terms since 2010.”

Ball Finished: **“Serious health experts say, the NHS faces a 'water-shed moment' that needs a long term plan to address. But the NHS faces further reorganisation from government plans to allow US-style accountable care organisations (ACOs) with no public consultation about whether the law and the NHS should undergo major change to the way services are delivered.”(2)**

Notes

(1) The Campaign against NHS Privatization (formed in 2010) is a group of local residents who seek to retain high quality health services and to defend the health service against privatisation. For more information visit: <http://campaignagainsthprivatization.org.uk>

(2) Accountable Care Organisations, House of Commons Library Briefing Paper Number CBP 8190, 9 January 2018,

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8190>