

**Defend the Whittington Hospital Coalition**

[www.dwhc.org.uk](http://www.dwhc.org.uk)

[defendwhittington@gmail.com](mailto:defendwhittington@gmail.com)



HEALTH SERVICE WHITE PAPER

# PRIVATISATION THREAT TO FUTURE OF NHS

*“Looking forward to a world where the department of health does not own hospitals.”*

Andrew Lansley, Health Secretary, launching the government’s white paper

The new coalition government’s white paper proposes the most far reaching health service reorganisation which threatens the very future of the NHS.

- NHS hospitals and services are to become independent of the NHS. Private companies will have equal status as “health care providers”.
- Billions of pounds of tax payers’ money will go to private companies as part of GP commissioning.
- The national structures of the NHS will be replaced by” independent” economic regulators.
- Health workers may lose their rights to national pay bargaining and NHS pensions.

The NHS has always been seen as the jewel in the crown of the welfare state. It was not won without a fight, but now we have an urgent battle on our hands to make sure that it is not dismantled and handed over to huge multinational corporations.

We appeal to health workers, GPs, trade unions, patients and community groups to join a massive coalition to say no to these plans and to defend our health service for future generations.

*“Handing over £80bn to untried, untested and probably private sector-led consortia is reckless. Far from liberating the NHS, these proposals will tie it up in knots for years to come. They are a recipe for more privatisation and less stability.”*  
Karen Jennings, Unison Head of Health

*“An untested, expensive Trojan Horse in political dogma that will give private companies an even greater stake in the NHS – this way of operating has already happened in the USA.”*  
David Fleming, Unite Health National Officer

*“The denationalisation of healthcare services.”*

Kingsley Manning, Business Director, Tribal health company

# GPS OR PRIVATE COMPANIES IN CONTROL?

- 80% of the NHS budget will be given to GPs who will be forced to form up to 500 “consortiums” across England. Private companies are expecting to play a major role in these, helping make decisions about the majority of patient services and health spending.
- A survey has shown two thirds of GPs are against the changes. They will have less choice if their consortium signs contracts with private providers rather than the local NHS. Patients will face a postcode lottery, and mental health services may suffer.
- The reorganisation will not save money but will transfer billions into the hands of private companies. The changes will cost at least £1.7 billion and cut 30,000 NHS jobs as Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health authorities are replaced by a new layer of “independent” GP administration.
- The NHS budget is said to be “ring-fenced”. But £20 billion reduction in “efficiency savings” is to be achieved quicker than planned (by 2014). Additional cuts will be needed because increased demand will not be funded. The coalition government has put unpopular hospital cuts and closures on hold, but will then blame GPs when they are forced to close hospital services.

**“Aim to create the largest social enterprise sector in the world”** David Cameron and Nick Clegg in the NHS white paper

## THE NHS REPLACED BY “ENTERPRISES”

- All hospitals and health trusts are to become self governing Foundation Trusts by 2014, pushed even further from the NHS by becoming “social enterprises” acting as independent providers.
- They will be allowed to borrow privately and to make profits – and with no bailout if they go bankrupt. The cap on private medicine will be lifted to allow unlimited provision of private medicine and increased links with the for - profit private sector.
- A small public health sector will be run by local councils. The remaining community health services will also be reorganised either as “social enterprises” or taken over by “any willing provider” whether for-profit or not.
- Lansley also favours moving Foundation Trusts off the NHS balance sheet entirely. Staff would formally leave the NHS to sell their services back as independent provider companies.

## NHS STAFF MADE TO PAY

- New health service staff in foundation trusts and those transferred to social enterprises or private companies could be shut out of the NHS pension scheme.
- Talks are to be held on cutting the NHS redundancy scheme and reviewing existing NHS pensions. Variable pay schemes will be encouraged across the NHS.

## WHO WILL RUN THE NHS?

- Money for the NHS will continue to be raised by the Treasury but the Department of Health will cease to be responsible for its operation. The health service will be run as a market overseen by a new **Independent Commissioning Board**.
- An economic regulator like Ofcom or Ofgem will be called **Monitor** whose first responsibility is defined as “promoting competition”.
- Local authority scrutiny committees do not appear to have a role in the white paper. Links, the existing patient networks, will be absorbed into **Health Watch**, a quality control and consumer body.

## TO JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Sign up on [www.dwhc.org.uk](http://www.dwhc.org.uk)