

PRESS RELEASE, SOHS – Mon.6th Nov. 2017

SOHS Campaigners in London support call on the Labour Party to re-present the NHS Re-Instatement Bill.

Following the national rally in Parliament Square earlier this year, Save Our Hospital Services (SOHS) from North Devon were again amongst campaigners from other counties across England when 9 delegates attended a conference called by Health Campaigns Together to consider how to develop regional networks keep up pressure on politicians wherever health services are threatened by cuts or privatisation. <https://healthcampaignstogether.com/pdf/HCTNo8.pdf>

Over 350 delegates joined an all day conference on **Saturday 4th November**, in Hammersmith Town Hall, London. It became abundantly clear on Saturday that there is political will within local councils who are supporting campaigners to oppose the cuts proposed by 44 Clinical Commissioning Groups whose Sustainability & Transformation Plans (STPs) will cut a total of £22 billion as laid down in the Health & Social Care Act 2012. These cuts are being rushed through without proper public consultation and are leading to judicial reviews to protect NHS local services. Devon County Councillors who pledged support to oppose STP cuts during council elections in May have now signed up to the cuts while local district and town councils are still supporting the SOHS campaign to oppose the cuts.

The conference noted that where public support had been mobilised STP cuts and privatisation have been resisted. Successes reported included retention of North Devon District Hospital Acute services, opposition to privatisation at George Elliot Hospital, Nuneaton and retention of A&E at Broomfield, Essex.

Speakers addressing the conference included the **Chair of BMA Council , Dr Chaand Nagpaul, Film Director & Campaigner Ken Loach** and John Lister, editor Health Campaigns Together who called on the Labour Party to represent the NHS Re-Instatement Bill which failed to be debated in Parliament due to suspension of business at June's general election. Campaigners believe that with pressure on MPs the bill could become law and start the reverse of privatisation for profit which is not appropriate in a public service like the NHS.

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Ian Crawford - SOHS, Media Liaison
07917 123 435
press-officer@sohs.org.uk