

SAVE NORTH DEVON'S HOSPITAL SERVICES



PRESS RELEASE

THE LEAKED SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION PLAN by the N E W Devon Healthcare Trust

"Lives will be lost if these cuts are implemented" said James Craigie, Chair of the *Save Our Hospital Services Devon* campaign. "The suggestion that stroke services could be moved to Derriford Hospital from *North Devon District Hospital* is nothing other than reckless." If maternity and paediatric services were to be moved to Plymouth, not only further endangering lives, it would also reduce the skills base of a vital and, currently, highly skilled Accident and Emergency service.

Some of the most deprived areas in the UK, such as parts of the Torridge constituency are located in North Devon. The NEW Devon Healthcare Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Group are literally playing with vulnerable people's lives. The proposed further reduction of hospital beds is alarming given the swingeing cuts that have already been made in Community Hospital beds and at the *North Devon District Hospital*, for example.

The *SOHS Devon* campaign believes that we are seeing a deliberate strategy of underfunding the National Health Service to destabilise and demoralise staff for the purpose of further privatisation.

The Save Our Hospital Services Devon campaign is vigorously resisting these proposals. The highly successful *Red Lines* march to the North Devon District Hospital on 23 August sent a powerful message to the wielders of the bureaucratic scalpel that their plans to remove acute services from one of the two remotest hospitals in England and Wales will be fiercely opposed.

"People are angry and won't accept these cuts" said campaigner Netti Pearson.

ENDS

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