

Together we can make a difference

**We shall: Save Our NHS
We shall: Keep our NHS Public
We shall: Demand Care
before Profit**

Get involved - Everyone Welcome

'Save our NHS' Public Meeting

Wednesday 9th February 7.00-8.30pm

at

The Saville Centre, 436 Lewisham High Street, SE13 6LJ
Tel:0208.690.7869 Hear from informed speakers and
join the debate

Organised by Lewisham Pensioners Forum

The coalition government has produced a Health White Paper which proposes some enormous changes to the NHS.

Please write to your MP and local paper and tell your friends.

We think the most important points are as follows:

1. In the middle of a recession the Government are proposing the biggest changes in the history of the NHS estimated to cost billions of pounds that could and should be spent on caring for patients
2. They are doing this without the support of doctors, nurses or patients and without an electoral mandate. Before the election they promised there would be no more top-down changes to the NHS.
3. At the same time as spending billions on changing NHS management they're already restricting services and cutting thousands of NHS jobs.
4. The NHS as we know it will be replaced with private and voluntary organisations which are paid NHS money to do NHS work. NHS Hospitals will be forced to become Foundation Trusts and compete with private companies.
5. Before the process of turning the NHS into a market began in 1990 GPs and patients could choose to be referred to any NHS consultant or hospital anywhere in the country. Since then the choices have been reduced to just a handful of private and NHS providers.
6. GPs will be given money to buy services for their patients directly but if their patients need more care than their GP can afford their GP may go bust and be taken over by private companies.
7. To cover the extra costs, private companies are saying that patients will be expected to pay extra for some NHS services they now get for free.

We know that what patients overwhelmingly choose is a doctor who knows them and a local hospital that provides all the care they need. They didn't vote for NHS money to go to private companies and their shareholders.

(The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' is available online and hard copies can be ordered from the Stationery Office on 0870 600 5522)