

Oh no – not another top-down NHS re-organisation

The HEALTH and CARE BILL

Even as our underpaid and understaffed NHS staff struggle to cope with Covid and patient backlog, the Government is pushing through yet another re-organisation.

More disruptive re-structuring is the very last thing the NHS needs at the moment, so what's going on and why are they doing it?

At the heart of the Bill is the plan to centralise services. The Government is taking control of the running of the NHS, with the Secretary of State being given 138 new powers. Instead of local control of services, led by doctors and clinicians, there will be a massive concentration of control.

England will be divided into 42 huge areas, modelled on the US Accountable Care Systems, except ours will be called **Integrated Care Systems (ICS)**. They will be run by managers appointed indirectly from the government, with no local accountability.

This means local CCGs will go and NHS services for Ealing and 7 other London Boroughs would be run by the new North West London Integrated Care System (ICS). It will have a budget fixed by the Government - so if demand or costs are higher than anticipated then existing NHS services will be cut.

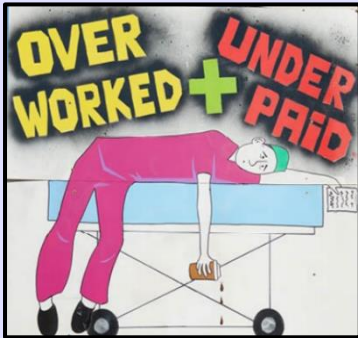
MATERNITY - HOW TO BELIEVE THEM?

Just over 6 years ago the much loved and successful Maternity Unit at Ealing Hospital was closed to save money. Health Bosses claimed that this would lead to improved services in Northwick Park Hospital and the wider area.

In 2016 the Northwick Park Maternity unit was rated as 'inadequate' with many areas needing improvement. Health bosses then promised action to improve its services to women and yet in June 2021 the Care Quality Commission once again produced a report that the service was 'inadequate'. We say – stop spending millions on re-organisation and outside management consultants. It's time to re-open Ealing Maternity.



Ealing Save Our NHS protest in 2015



The ICS **can order widespread privatisation** of services (private companies allowed to use NHS logo of course) and these companies can be part of the ICS, taking decisions on our services.

There will be **almost no public scrutiny** – local councils have very little role with the public only “represented” by unaccountable people appointed to go with the flow.

Private companies have a terrible record for cutting standards in order to maximise profit. Now this Bill will **allow even more contracts to be given to cronies** as there will be no need to tender. And as NHS centralisation and privatisation increases, doctors are being squeezed more and more out of policy making.

Many services have already become more remote, having been centralised by managers for administrative and financial reasons, instead of being community based. For example the merger of Ealing and Central Middlesex with Northwick Park (in Harrow) has taken many services a long way from patients and been very hard for some to access.

To sum it up: Local control of health services is going out and more privatisation, Cronyism and Cuts is coming in.

EALING SAVE OUR NHS

is a local campaign of ordinary people, annoyed at what's happening to vital NHS services and the treatment of staff. We hold regular meetings, organise protests and other events and can be seen in shopping centres all round Ealing. Some of us also research and follow official meetings to find out what's going on. We join up with campaigners in other areas to fight for our NHS.

Why not join us? Visit our website to get in touch and get regular newsletters.

www.ealingsaveournhs.org.uk

