

Health Campaigns Together

● Defending Our NHS ● www.healthcampaignstogether.com ● @nhscampaigns

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Dear Colleague,

National Demonstration, Saturday 4th March, London

'It's Our NHS'

Our National Health Service is at breaking point. On the backdrop of gross underfunding and continued cuts and closures of NHS services, private companies seek to gain even more of a foothold within the NHS.

Continued pay restraint has seen the value of NHS staff salaries reduce by 14% since 2010 and there are now 25,000 nursing and 3,500 midwifery vacancies in NHS England alone. **Theresa May's demands for yet more austerity in the NHS represent a real risk to the safety of patients and the service. The NHS crisis will intensify this Winter and there will be no let up in the following months as drastic cost cutting Sustainability and Transformation Plans are rolled out across the country, leading to more cuts and closures.**

'Health Campaigns Together' is a national network of over thirty NHS campaigning organisations and unions working together to co-ordinate action to defend the NHS. HCT is calling a national demonstration in London on 4th March and we are appealing to you/your organisation for support. We believe the time has come to demonstrate the breadth and depth of support for the NHS and anger and opposition to the destructiveness of Tory policies. By March the "winter crisis" will not be over and the full reality of the STP plans will have become clearer to many more people. We believe this could be a massive demonstration, bringing together the growing number of community campaigns with the trade union movement.

The NHS is the single greatest achievement of our movement. We cannot allow it to be undermined and ultimately destroyed. We must march together, sending a clear message to the government; "the NHS will last as long as there are folk with the faith to fight for it."

We hope that we can stand united and fight to defend the service we care so deeply about.

We are currently inviting sponsorship and support for the demonstration and will then formalise all the plans towards the end of the year. There is a Steering Committee from our campaign pulling things together but if you wish to get involved please let Louise know.

Warmest Regards,

M Forster & L Irvine

Mike Forster, chair, Hands Off Huddersfield Royal Infirmary

Louise Irvine, chair, Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign

On behalf of Health Campaigns Together

Please email messages of support and sponsorship. We will collect the names of sponsoring organisations and reprint our letter and leaflets before the end of the year. We will also be looking for financial support to assist with the organisation and publicising of the demonstration.

Contact Louise Irvine at louise.irvine@runbox.com or phone 07922 277395

Mike Forster at mike.forster56@gmail.com or phone 07887 668740

Go on our website for more information <http://www.healthcampaignstogether.com> where donations can be made via pay pal and our latest newspaper can be downloaded or ordered in bulk.

To contact the Health Campaigns Together organiser, Alan Taman, for any information about HCT or how you can join or help, please e-mail:

healthcampaignstogether@gmail.com