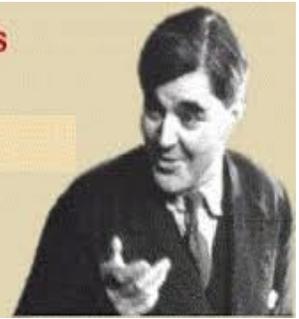




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"It will last as long as there are folk left with the faith to fight for it"

Aneurin Bevan MP on the NHS



# Wandsworth Health News

October 2016

No 33

## St George's funding cut by £18m

Poor old St George's- unable to meet the cuts demanded of them they now have to forfeit a further £17.8m funding from the Government's Sustainability and Transformation fund for failing to meet their cuts target.

The end of year expectation is that 'the borrowing requirement for the year will be £109.9m'

This is £77m more than expected. This includes an emergency capital request of £39 m.

It doesn't include a £20m 'cash headroom request'

*(All figures taken from the Finance Report to the St George's Board meeting on*

6 October 2016)

Things are looking bleak for the hospital.

The so called 'turn around

plan' which was supposed to keep the hospital on track in reducing its expenditure seems to be in pieces.



The whizz kids from KPMG the multinational consultancy company who were supposed to drive through the cuts have singularly failed.

The turnaround board is set to give them the chop.- despite having paid them thousands for their 'advice'.

No small wonder given their significant failure .

The number of KPMG consultants has been slashed from 16 to 5, and the position will be further reviewed in October with a planned exit date for all the KPMG apparatchiks.

## Wandsworth Health News

What is happening to the NHS in Wandsworth.

Keep up to date with developments in your local hospital and Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group.

Comments, info etc to:  
[drmikesquires@gmail.com](mailto:drmikesquires@gmail.com)

## Staff cuts on the way

St George's staff, according to the NHS annual staff survey work over and above the hours they are contracted for. Everybody knows that NHS staff with a few exceptions are dedicated, hard working and caring and the workers at St George's are all of those things.

The over 8000 staff at the hospital have to cope with a vacancy rate of 17 %, plus nearly 4% are off sick every day; the main cause of days lost being stress and anxiety.

Now the Trust Board want to cut the number of staff by 10% by next March.

It is madness.

It will mean a demoralised staff leaving in even greater numbers than they are now.

It will mean all staff working far in excess of

their contract hours. They will be tired and overworked and therefore more likely to make mistakes.

As for patients, they will wait longer for routine appointments; wait longer



for operations; and the queues for all types of treatment will grow.

This is no way to run a hospital.

The Trust Board must be upfront with the staff, and honest with patients.

The NHS is underfunded and privatisation makes it worse with money being

siphoned off into private companies profits and away from NHS provider investment.

St George's Trust Board shouldn't try and sweep this unpalatable fact under the carpet.

The Trust Board, along with the elected Council of Governors have a duty to inform the staff and the public that unless more investment is made available services at the hospital will seriously deteriorate.

This issue too should be taken up by Tooting's MP, Dr Rosena Allin-Khan who before her election was an A&E doctor at St George's.

Contact Dr Allin-Khan and let her know what you feel about the cuts at St George's

[rosena@drrosena.co.uk](mailto:rosena@drrosena.co.uk)

## Help to save our NHS

**Wandsworth Group  
Keep Our NHS Public  
Meets second Monday in  
the month at the PCS  
building by Clapham  
Junction Station(near the  
car park)Room 4.3 7.30pm**

**South West London Keep  
Our NHS Public  
Meets second Tuesday in the  
month at Colliers Wood  
Community Centre, Colliers  
Wood High St SW19 7.30pm  
4 mins from Colliers Wood tube**

# St George's staff to police pregnant women- Trust Board falls out with Wandsworth CCG over the issue

The staff at St George's already facing staff cuts of 10% and a vacancy rate of 17% are now expected to police pregnant women to check their eligibility for treatment.



Where they will get the extra resources to do this the Trust Board has not made clear.

According to the Trust Board over £4m a year is being lost to overseas patients who are not eligible for treatment in obstetrics. Pregnant women are slipping through the loop and the Trust Board wants to tighten up the procedures. To do this they need the co-operation of their main purchaser, Wandsworth CCG.

Wandsworth have raised a whole number of concerns the most important of which is the effect this

might have on NHS patients, and the danger of discrimination .

Wandsworth CCG had quite rightly said that this additional monitoring of obstetric patients could well effect the waiting time.

In addition the CCG is concerned that there should be no discrimination. St George's want all obstetric patients to produce photo ID and a utility bill before they can be treated.

This will undoubtedly cause holdups, resentment and slow the whole system of appointments down.

In addition with a 10% cut in staff who will administer this cumbersome operation ?

If St George's want to save money there are far easier targets than pregnant women.

Far more could be saved by renegotiating the Private Finance Initiative deal that was done with a group of private companies in 2003 to develop the Atkinson Morley wing of the hospital.

The wing was built at a cost of £46m. Each year

the hospital pays the companies back what is called a unitary charge that is linked to the retail price index. To date over £102 m has been paid back to this consortium of private companies-over twice what the Atkinson Morley cost to build.

And the hospital will continue to pay out tax payers money until the contract finishes in 2033.



This year the annual repayment was nearly £10m ,by the end of the contract it is predicted to be nearly £15m.

In all St George's will have paid over £320m for a £45m building.

So if the Trust Board really want to save money the PFI scheme would be a good place to start.

# South West London Sustainability and Transformation Plan-why are we waiting ?

The so called Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for South West London has still not been published. Not only patients and the public have been kept waiting but our elected officials as well.



**Sustainability  
Transformation  
Plan**  
Footprints of Death

Despite numerous promises that the STP would be published- first over the summer, and then when that didn't materialise in the autumn- we are now into winter and everyone is still waiting. Wandsworth Council at the joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee meeting earlier in the month was clearly upset that no plans had been published to date. On 21 October the South West London draft STP was submitted to NHS England. This was the submission date for the

STPs.

The secretive South West London CCGs despite much rhetoric about patient involvement have so far not responded to questions about just when patients and public in the area can see just what is planned for

their future health facilities.

Despite the secrecy some proposals have already come to light. The most significant and the most frightening is that the NHS services in the SW London area must make cuts of £900m by 2021. Cuts of this magnitude have never been made before. It will be the responsibility of all the NHS services in the area to ensure that they are carried out.

St George's hospital which will be part of the STP, last year alone ended the year

over £50m overdrawn.

This year it could almost double that with a £100m overdraft.

There is no way that the hospital can be expected to make even more draconian cuts.

The NHS is underfunded.

What funds it has are wasted on the bureaucratic purchaser/provider split-the market model in health care where one part of the service buys services from the other part. Introduced by the Tories in 1990 this inane system described as 'Peter pays Paul' cost anywhere between 5 and 10% of the NHS budget. In fact nobody is really quite sure just how much this bureaucracy costs.

One way of abolishing the market would be the passing of the NHS Reinstatement Bill by Parliament which gets its next reading on 4 November.

See page 5 for more details

**Email your local  
councillor or MP  
and ask when will  
the STP for  
SW London be  
published**

# **All out on 4 November.**

## **Support the second reading of the NHS Reinstatement Bill.**

### **Come to the lobby of Parliament**

The NHS Reinstatement Bill is due for its second reading on Friday 4 November. There are other Bills in front so it is unlikely to be discussed. This is a pity. The Bill if it became law would do as it says on the tin and reinstate the NHS to a publicly owned, publicly provided service .

- The market would be abolished and only in very exceptional circumstances would private companies be able to provide services and only then when none were available from the NHS.
- The responsibility for the service would be returned to the Secretary of State for Health.
- The crippling Private Finance Initiative annual repayments would be centralised and become the

responsibility of the Treasury rather than individual hospitals

- Planning and co-operation would return to the NHS with the abolition of purchasers and providers
- Area health authorities would return with democratic control so that all services can be co-ordinated, including care services
- Patients and the public will be empowered with authority to inspect all services with the reintroduction of the widely respected community health councils

The NHS Reinstatement Bill gives a real opportunity to bring the NHS back to its original notion of providing a comprehensive health service free at the point of use and provided by a staff of caring and committed

professionals . Employed by the NHS.

Over the past 26 years since the Thatcherite reforms of 1990 our NHS has been a playground for profiteering private companies whose only aim is to milk the service and create wealth for the shareholders.

We need to kick out the spivs and those who want to profit from other peoples health needs.

The Reinstatement Bill will do just that.

It may not be perfect but it will bring the NHS back under peoples democratic ownership and control.

It will ensure that every time you visit the doctor or the hospital you know that the aim is to ensure your wellbeing—you are not being treated so a private company can profit from your illness.

**Join the fightback against cuts and privatisation**

**Contact: Keep Our NHS Public**

<http://keepournhspublic.com/>

## Knightsbridge wing to close in early 2017

St George's Knightsbridge wing will no longer be in use by Christmas and demolition is to take place no later than the end of March 2017.

The wing's projected closure has already caused

much disruption particularly for dialysis patients in Buckland ward. They have been relocated to dialysis units in North Wandsworth and Colliers Wood.

The unlucky patients have

been handed over to the tender mercies of a private company by the name of Fresenius for their dialysis treatment-with frightening results.

See article below for details

## Kidney dialysis being done by a private company-what it is like for patients

An anonymous dialysis patient emailed in the report below:

*I am undergoing dialysis at the Colliers Wood Satellite unit run by Fresenius medical care. The unit is managed by nurses only who are not very competent and each is managing four patients which results in poor supervision, delays and is unsafe for the patients. There are no doctors onsite to attend to emergencies. The shifts are not managed efficiently and the last patient leaves past 12 am reaching home past 1 am. The transport provided by the private company HATS is also very poorly organised and the patients have to spend two hours for coming and*

*two hours for going back besides four and half hours on dialysis. This is a highly traumatic experience to all the dialysis patients. Previously I was going to St Georges hospital for dialysis where again the travel experiences with G4S was equally distressing. The private companies are more profit oriented, and the patients convenience and comfort is their last priority.*

*St Georges do not have enough funding for all the dialysis patients to be accommodated in the Truck units while the bigger building is being constructed for the Renal department. If more truck units are provided on site*

*then the NHS will not have to pay exorbitant charges to Fresenius. NHS public services are much cheaper and more efficient and of a better quality compared to those provided by private companies. The NHS must work to optimise its services rather than approaching private service predators.*

It says it all.

That was an unsolicited email sent in by a patient to Wandsworth Health News.

There must be thousands of stories like that, that never get told.

If you know of any do send them in.

**Contact  
Mike Squires  
drmikesquires@gmail.com**

## Despite cuts services at St George's getting worse

The papers presented at the St George's Trust Board October meeting show that despite cuts services at the hospital in important areas still continue on a downward spiral.

- Referral to treatment-off target
- A&E 4 hour turnaround getting worse.
- Cancelled operations-patients not treated within 28 days getting worse.

The beds crisis continues

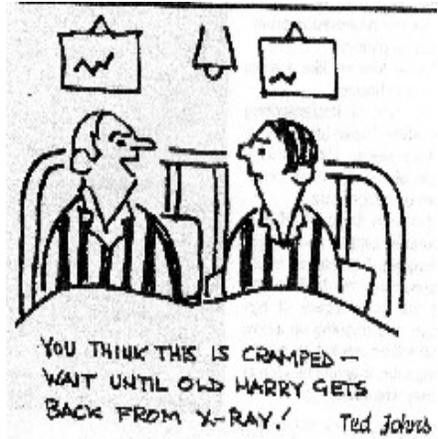
unabated .

The bed occupancy target is 85%. This gives time for beds to be properly aired and reduces the chance of infection

Bed occupancy at St George's is 85%.

Instead of trying to expand bed numbers the Trust Board still seem intent on going ahead with their plan of introducing a 40 bed private patients unit on land close to the Atkinson Morley wing.

So if you have the money you can jump the queue. Pain if you are poor, instant relief if you are wealthy



## Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press Stop Press

### Camden Council in London controlled by Labour publishes STP for the area

Well done Camden Council.

The Labour leader of Camden Council in North Council blew away the cobwebs of secrecy on Friday last, the day the draft STPs were submitted to NHS England.

Sarah Hayward, the leader of the Council in a statement saying why she decided to publish the plan attacked the lack of transparency in the whole

STP process

"There has been no political oversight, and minimal public and patient engagement. At present, there is a lack of appropriate focus on adult social care. That lack of public, patient and political involvement is why I am [publishing this document on our website](#). It is vital that there is full transparency in Camden as this work progresses"

Hear, Hear to that.

A similar request to Wandsworth Council leader Ravi Govinder has resulted in a buck passing exercise. The council leader has asked that 'an official look into it.' No surprise there.

So to date its a blank wall from the CCG and the council

The area STP remains undercover known only by the chosen few.