



## **MSK privatised**

People with muscle, joint and bone problems (MSK) used to be cared for by the NHS in Oxford. This service has now been handed to a private company, Healthshare Ltd. Physiotherapists and other NHS staff will now be working for Healthshare at a number of sites in the county. But, under Healthshare, the number of sites will be reduced from 13 to 9. For instance, Abingdon Community Hospital will no longer offer physiotherapy.

Questions have been raised about why the Clinical Commissioning Group handed this service to a private provider and it appears to be part of the broader cost-cutting that is taking place across the NHS. We have heard that many MSK staff are very unhappy with this arrangement and some have refused to move to Healthshare.

In West Sussex, MSK services at the local hospital in Worthing were contracted out to BUPA. But campaigners, supported by the local press and politicians, challenged this and BUPA withdrew from the contract. MSK services in West Sussex are safely back in public NHS hands. If they can do it, why not us?.

## **Jeremy Hunt and the misuse of statistics**

We all know how Stephen Hawking challenged Jeremy Hunt's misleading use of statistics with regard to weekend NHS care. Jeremy Hunt (and Theresa May) have also misled us about NHS spending. They always claim that the government will increase NHS spending by £10 billion between 2015 and 2020. But this lie was exposed by the House of Commons Health Committee.

The £10 billion figure applies only to NHS England, not the whole of the Department of Health, which includes such things as public health, education and training. If the whole of Department of Health spending is taken into account, the real budget increase over that whole period is just £4.5 billion. In 2016, according to an article in the *British Medical Journal* (24 Nov 2016), the Department of Health budget was actually cut by 25 per cent.



## We love our NHS - keep it public

The NHS promises to provide good healthcare to everyone and it looks after, on average, 1 million people every 36 hours. If you get ill, have an accident, need an operation, have a baby – the NHS is there for you. What an amazing way to reduce everyone's stress levels and create a more caring society.

As if that wasn't enough, the NHS is also super efficient. The NHS is one of the best healthcare systems in the world – and unlike many others, remains free at the point of delivery. But the government is threatening the healthcare we all have access to, with cuts and privatisation. We need to take action now to save our NHS.

**Sign our petition.** Go to our website: <https://weownit.org.uk/>

## Oxford doesn't have enough ambulances

Government cuts have led to shortages of staff and equipment. Shortage of nurses means the NHS has to pay millions to private nursing agencies. More than one-third of the UK's hip and knee operations are now being carried out by the private sector.

Now we learn that Oxfordshire doesn't have enough NHS ambulances. More than £16m has been splashed out on private ambulances since 2016. In 2016/17 South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) spent £16.3m on private ambulances, which is 9.25 per cent of its total operating expenditure. Cuts to NHS funding are a boost for the private sector.



## Government plan to sell off NHS assets

The **Naylor Report**, agreed by the government, proposes to sell NHS property in order to fund the health service. This is not just unused land or buildings that the NHS happens to own but all assets, including those used in delivering NHS services. NHS bodies that refuse to sell their assets may have to pay extra charges or be denied planned capital funding by the Department of Health.



