



Hands Off Hinchingsbrooke Press Release

‘Campaigners brand takeover plans as dangerous and short sighted’

Embargo: Immediate

The local community campaign group Hands Off Hinchingsbrooke has branded both trust boards dangerous and short sighted after takeover plans of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital are set to go ahead.

Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals Foundation NHS Trust unanimously voted in favour of the take over of Hinchingsbrooke hospital on Tuesday 27th September 2016. Today (Thursday 29th September) the trust board at Hinchingsbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust also voted in favour of the takeover which is set to happen from April 1, 2017.

The plans which could see services such as Accident & Emergency, Urgent Care, Haematology and Maternity downgraded or closed as the result of a non-resident board taking decisions which will not affect their lives or the lives of their loved ones. Both boards are not thinking about patient safety and the plans are ill-thought.

Speaking after the Hinchingsbrooke Hospital board meeting, Secretary of Hands Off Hinchingsbrooke, Daniel Laycock said “Both boards have prepared an ill-thought plan, this takeover will endeavour to downgrade or close services and even quite possibly close the hospital all together.

Within the Full Business Case both boards have branded Hinchingsbrooke Hospital as an ambitious organisation with no chance of succeeding with the financial plan and have praised Peterborough Hospital as a potential hospital to do great things.

Both boards have also stated that they will save £9m from back office and corporate but from 12 mergers that have taken place across the country during the last 5 years this has been inaccurate and shows incompetency. This would suggest that there is no evidence to support their claim that a takeover would be beneficial for everyone.

Both trust boards haven't taken into consideration setting-up of an "Integrated Healthcare System for Huntingdonshire ("Primary Care, Secondary (Hospita) and Older Peoples Care) as suggested by The Kings Fund Report (Foundation Trust and NHS Trust Mergers Report). This report recommends, "placed based systems of care, with the emphasis on collaboration across organisational and service boundaries to meet the needs of a defined population (such as Huntingdonshire) so as to ensure financial and clinical sustainability.

We are calling for Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridgeshire Couny Council to start a Judicial Review into the takeover of Hinchingsbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust by Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

We are urging resident's from Huntingdonshire, Peterborough and South Lincolnshire to stand against the takeover so that services across all three sites are not downgraded or lost entirely and campaign with us on the streets, meetings across all three counties to fight for our NHS. The NHS is facing unprecedented attacks by means of mergers plus the Sustainability and Transformation Plan which the merger is being forced through by NHS Improvement. These are very difficult and challenging times but we must stand together as a community so that vital services such as A&E, maternity, children services or other departments that could be centralised, are not downgraded or lost altogether. This is happening up and down the country, we as a society and community from different backgrounds, countries, race, religions, beliefs, stand united in our fight to ensure that our hospital will be publicly funded, publicly provided and publicly accountable to all who use the world's greatest health service."

Notes to Editor:

1. Memorandum of Understanding (December 2015)
2. Outline Business Case
3. Memorandum of Understanding to development of Full Business Case (July 2016)
4. Full Business Case (Sept 2016)

For more information:

<https://www.peterboroughandstamford.nhs.uk/about-us/working-with-hinchingbrooke/>

4. Hands Off Hinchingsbrooke is a nonpartisan community group, established in 2010 to fight against the privatisation of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and for its return to the NHS. We are campaigning yet again to protect services at Hinchingsbrooke as a takeover of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital NHS Trust and Peterborough and Stamford Foundation NHS Trust, places services at greater risk of downgrading or being lost altogether.

Huntingdonshire residents, health campaigners, Trade Unions, and community and health workers are profoundly concerned for the future of the Hospital.

For more information: <http://handsoffhinchingbrooke.org>

5. For media enquiries please contact Daniel Laycock, Press and Media Officer and Spokesperson, on 07983 692 393 or email d.laycock27@gmail.com or Rob Gardiner, Press and Media Officer and Spokesperson on 01480 812383 and 07900 594625, or email robgardiner2@btinternet.com.

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