

Letter to Councillors etc.

ADDRESS

Date

Dear

I am writing to you about NHS cuts, privatisations and in particular the Sustainability Transformation Plan for footprint 33.

I believe this represents a major step in dismantling the NHS as I have known it, cutting and privatising MY National Health Service. Under STPs, NHS deficits have to be cleared, as well as a further level of cuts imposed.

There has been no consultation and very little information about the STPs though they are planned for implementation in April 2017. The fact that NHS England has felt it necessary to create them in secrecy suggests they have something to be ashamed of and we have something to fear!!

An NHS Director of Commissioning Operations said "**Some of the STPs contain very radical things that are highly political & highly contentious. Once they are washed off & the national messages gathered, they will be published.**"

Since I am one of the shareholders, as a taxpayer, in the NHS I demand to see the **full** plan before any further steps are taken towards acceptance or implementation. Consultation is something that takes place **before** an event, not when it is signed and sealed.

To the British public the NHS is sacrosanct. It represents the best of British, humanitarian values. It is collectively and communally funded to support each other when we're inevitably ill. Furthermore, it was bequeathed by our fathers and grand-fathers after their terrible sacrifices in two world wars in the last century. There is no better memorial to them.

Even before STP implementation we have seen East Sussex Healthcare Trust go into special measures; we are experiencing problems in just getting a GP appointment; we have seen cuts to children services; hospital services lost in Eastbourne and Hastings and A&E is in constant crisis while mental health services remain increasingly neglected. The government is deliberately running the service down to justify privatisation.

I do not believe that this is a funding issue, I believe it is promoted by people who believe in making profit from people's ill health and who have vested interests in private health companies- such as many conservative MPs!

I understand councillors will be required to sign off the local STP soon. I will not be voting for any party that participates in ratifying our STP and is therefore implicit in privatisation!

Yours sincerely,