

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL ON 23 FEBRUARY 2012

AGREED - Executive and to be reported to cabinet for determination.

Submitted by Cllr Jeuda and seconded by Cllr Jackson

Health and Social Care Bill

This Council urges Cheshire East MP's to vote against the Health and Social Care Bill when it returns to the House of Commons.

There is no democratic mandate for this reorganization. It was ruled out in the Coalition Agreement and in every reference to the NHS by the leader of the Conservative Party, at the time of the General Election. He referred to no top down reorganization, we did not vote for this!

The NHS was set up in 1948 with a vision of what could be possible in relation to future health care, as well as what was achievable at the time. The Coalition Government's Health and Social Care Bill strikes at the heart of that vision.

Everyone acknowledges that the NHS must constantly evolve, which is what it has been doing for the past 63 years.

It is scandalous that the Government is setting aside £3.5bn on an unnecessary reorganization when the NHS is facing the biggest challenge in its history. It has to save £20bn over the next four years, Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT has set aside £27,898,799.

The Bill has so far has over 100 amendments the Bill proposes major structural re-organisation, with 49% of NHS beds moving to the private sector. We acknowledge that there is an important role for the private sector.

Professional bodies that are not politically aligned and represent the full spectrum of health service workers have voted to advocate dropping the Health and Social Care Bill - notably the British Medical Association, Royal Colleges of Nursing, Midwifery, General Practitioner's, Radiographers and Radiologists, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists, the Patients' Association and the NHS Consultants' Association. Other professional bodies such as the Royal Colleges of Psychiatrists, Pathologists and Ophthalmologists and the Faculty for Public Health have pointed out serious flaws in the Bill. Furthermore, citizens have concerns and in some cases fear about the damage that the proposed changes may do to the NHS, with direct impact on services in the future for them and their families.

It is time to be looking at a 'Plan B' for the NHS.