



**NO to NHS Cuts!**  
**NO to NHS Privatisation!**  
**NO to Selling-Off NHS Sites!**

Consultation on Sunderland Urgent Care Services

Presentation of Petition to Sunderland Council 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Keep Our NHS Public (KONP) Sunderland and District rejects the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group's proposals to close the urgent care services at Houghton-Le-Spring, Bunnyhill and Washington replacing them with an Urgent Treatment Centre located at Pallion Health Centre together with some additional appointments in the existing 40 GP practices and the Sunderland Extended Access Service (SEAS).

Over the last 12 weeks, we have been petitioning residents in Sunderland, Houghton, Hetton, Shiney Row and Washington advising them of the proposals and have collected **6,453** signatures from people who oppose the cuts in services. By contrast, the CCG has, according to its own website, only managed to engage with 2,507 people or 1.1% of the population.

We have talked to hundreds of local people who believe that services should be local and they should not have to travel great distances to access them which can disadvantage the most vulnerable and poorest in our communities. They do not accept the CCG claims that they will be able to increase GP appointments sufficiently to provide more access closer to home for residents in Bunnyhill, Houghton and Washington.

The Council at its meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018 passed a motion with support from all sides of the Chamber, opposing the intentions of Sunderland CCG to downgrade the Urgent Care Services at Houghton-Le-Spring, Bunnyhill and Washington.

It resolved to inform the CCG of its intentions to:

- Engage constructively with them in relation to their consultation with residents regarding local Urgent Care services.
- Mandate group leaders and officers to liaise and make every effort to establish a consensus to best represent residents affected by the consultation.
- Identify and give immediate and urgent consideration to any necessary actions, including consideration of judicial review, relating to the Urgent Care Services review.
- Involve stakeholders so as to secure the best possible overall Urgent Care outcomes for residents.

We now wish to present our petition to the Council as evidence of the strength of feeling amongst local people against the CCG proposals and the removal of the urgent care services at Bunnyhill, Houghton and Washington.

We would urge the Council to support us in this opposition and to refer the petition to the Health and Wellbeing Committee for consideration and inclusion in its submission to the CCG.

We would also urge the Council to join with KONP Sunderland & District in presenting the petition to the CCG and publicising the local opposition to their proposals

Laura Murrell, Secretary, KONP Sunderland & District

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