

Green Party campaign to stop NHS “Slash and Trash Plans” and protect and restore A&E services

<https://jenny4mp.wordpress.com/2016/09/05/green-party-campaign-to-stop-nhs-slash-and-trash-plans-and-protect-and-restore-ae-services/>

The Green Party Autumn 2016 Conference has given overwhelming support to an emergency motion from [South Lincolnshire Green Party](#), to protect and restore acute and emergency hospital services and to stop the secretive NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans – also known as NHS Slash and Trash Plans.

Here is the emergency motion, which was passed at the Saturday afternoon plenary session. It is followed by the explanatory speech by Jenny Shepherd, Calderdale Green Party, presenting the motion on behalf of South Lincolnshire Green Party

EMERGENCY MOTION FOR GREEN PARTY AUTUMN 2016 CONFERENCE

Protect and restore acute and emergency hospital services

44 area “footprint” “Sustainability and Transformation Plans”, being drawn up in conditions of secrecy imposed by NHS England, will accelerate NHS cuts and privatisation.

NHS Improvement has instructed NHS organisations to list services which could be axed or centralised, making “rapid progress” during the current financial year.

The people of Grantham and the surrounding area are campaigning to reverse the withdrawal on 17 August 2016 by United Lincolnshire Hospitals Trust, due to staff shortages, of A&E services at their hospital; this is the newest of a host of local campaigns across England to protect and reinstate full acute and emergency services at district general hospitals, and to protect other NHS services from cuts and privatisation.

Banbury Horton consultant-led maternity service is [due for closure](#) on October 1st.

The secretive preparation of [Sustainability and Transformation Plans](#), which have only come to light in the last few weeks, is an appalling abuse of our democratic rights and is being met with [protests](#) at local authorities’ Health and Wellbeing Boards, Clinical Commissioning Group meetings and the offices of NHS England – all organisations with a role in the development and implementation of Sustainability and Transformation Plans.

Conference instructs the Green Party campaigns team, external communications team and the Green Party Health and Social Wellbeing spokesperson to urgently generate campaign materials and media messages in support of these local campaigns and protests.

Explanatory speech

The worst Secretary of State for Health the country's ever had is slashing the NHS to pieces and privatising it at an accelerating pace. Secretive Sustainability and Transformation Plans – which campaigners call Slash and Trash Plans, because that's what they will do to the NHS – will mean the end of the NHS as a comprehensive service that is available to everyone who needs it.

The latest NHS cut, that this emergency motion concerns, is the sudden restriction of A&E opening hours at Grantham Hospital – announced on the 11th August and carried out on the 17th August.

Grantham A&E is now only open from 9am to 6.30pm. In the evening and overnight, Grantham people who need emergency care have to travel 45 minutes to Lincoln A&E or 1 and a half hours to Pilgrim Hospital in Boston.

Extra distance to A &E is associated with emergency patients' increased death rates, as reliable studies have shown.

This is just the latest example of ruthless cuts to NHS services that threaten the safety and health of people in need of health care. That is all of us, at one time or another.

There are well over 50 groups campaigning across England to stop and reverse NHS cuts and privatisation and to stop the STPs. These campaigns are in a range of constituencies and areas, where Greens locally are taking a lead in campaigns.

We need support from the national Green Party. This motion speaks directly to the needs of the general population.

This motion is to instruct the Green Party campaigns team, external comms team and the Green Party Health spokesperson to urgently generate campaign materials and media messages in support of the local campaigns and protests.

Apart from NHS patients and their families and friends and NHS staff, people generally still do not know about these cuts and privatisations and the STPs.

We urgently need to get the information out there to the general public, because only mass public opposition can stop and reverse the cuts and privatisations, stop the STPs and restore the NHS.