

NHS Yes...

PFI

Time is running out to stop hundreds of millions of pounds being taken from caring for NHS patients and handed to banks and private shareholders.

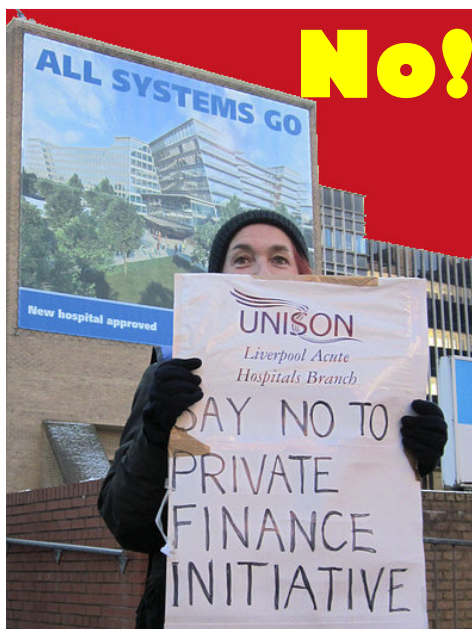
But the PFI scheme for the Royal & Broadgreen is not a "done deal". The Dept of Health and the Treasury have yet to approve the current plans. The preferred bidder has not been named. The final contract has not been negotiated or approved. There is still time to smell the coffee. But not much.

People in St Helens and Whiston know about PFI. It caused a £20.3m annual gap in the Trust's budget, possible takeover by a private firm, and then a promise of funds from a £1.5bn Gov't bailout of the 7 worst schemes. As of early Nov, the money has not arrived.

PFI is a major cause of the NHS disaster in South London. The Special Administrator now running that Trust wants to shut an A&E dept, and may hand two hospitals to private firms.

PFI has wrecked NHS finances in Peterborough – where Unison is demanding a public inquiry – Kent, Cumbria, Wakefield, Nottinghamshire...

The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee knows the score. In Sept. PAC Chair Margaret Hodge MP made David Bennett (Monitor Chief Exec), David Nicholson (NHS Commissioning Board Chair), and Dept of Health



officials admit: **money spent on PFI bailouts is money taken out of front-line patient care.**

The only game in town?

In Nov 2010 Joe Anderson (then Leader of Liverpool City Council) told BBC Radio Merseyside "I know it doesn't provide Value for Money now or in the future, but it's the only game in town".

Not any more. Broadmoor Hospital is being rebuilt with public finance. Hartlepool and North Tees expect to build their new hospital – the size of the Royal – with investment from pension funds. Northumbria Health is buying out their PFI scheme with a loan from the County Council. Whitehaven is building a new hospital without PFI.

So why is the Royal ploughing on with a plan which threatens our health service with another PFI debt crisis?



Flaws in the Royal plan

PFI has first call on hospital budgets, coming before clinical need.

- **It's not Affordable:** When Andy Burnham approved the scheme in 2010, the plan said 12.33% of annual turnover would go on PFI and facilities costs. It's almost the same plan now. In March the regulator Monitor blocked Foundation Trust status due to "insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Trust would be viable with the PFI".

- **It will get worse.** Trust income will be hit by lower national tariffs (fixed prices for treatment), transfer of services to the community, private sector competition, drugs costs etc.

- **Massive 'efficiency savings' a.k.a. cuts.** To fund the scheme, the Royal has to find £8.5m 'efficiencies' beyond the savage 4% annual savings imposed by the Dept of Health. NHS North West said the Trust's viability and the scheme's affordability depend on these savings and "this must be identified as a risk."

- **Value for Money fiddled.** The Royal only claimed an 0.03% advantage for PFI in 2010 after fiddling the figures on Value for Money, as exposed by the Treasury Select Committee last year.

- **PFI will cost £500m more than Public Finance,** because PFI bank loans cost much more than Gov't borrowing.



The NHS will last as long as there are folk left with the faith to fight for it."

Aneurin Bevan, 1948

The money will come out of health care across Merseyside for 30 years. Whose healthcare? Yours, your kids.

Who benefits from PFI?

Banks and shareholders. Two firms want to be chosen as Preferred Bidder: Carillion and Horizon, a.k.a. Interserve.

Carillion supervisors bullied Goan support staff at Great Western Hospital, provoking a strike. Carillion and Interserve were both active in blacklisting construction workers.

Carillion has one of the 7 bailout PFI schemes and three of the 22 where PFI is affecting Foundation Trust status.

Interserve has two of the 7 bailout PFIs including Maidstone, signed in 2008, a scheme they boast about on the net.

What You Can Do

- **Sign our petition**
- **Raise the issue in your union / community group**
- **Write to the press, radio phone-ins**
- **Public meetings, Demonstrations, Financial support**
- **Contact us: Coalition Against PFI, c/o Keep Our NHS Public c/o News from Nowhere, 96 Bold St L1 4HY or email keepournhspublicmerseyside@yahoo.com**