



For immediate release

Hollow Birthday for Sheffield's NHS

On Friday 1st July, the NHS in Sheffield and the rest of England will be run by new organisations. But **with days to go there is very little information publicly available on the new organisation**. The lack of information does not bode well for the future transparency of the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board.

The new Health and Care Act sets up 42 Integrated Care System (ICS) Boards to run the NHS locally. In Sheffield, the current Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will be abolished along with those for Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham and replaced with an ICS to be called NHS South Yorkshire.

In October last year, Sheffield Save Our NHS warned that:

The reorganisation could **remove decision-making even further away from any local democratic accountability at the same time as opening the door for further privatisation** and bigger profits for private companies, who have already made £billions out of the Covid-19 crisis. At the same time, **staff may face the destruction of national terms and conditions**. The Bill will do nothing to solve the real problems of the NHS – lack of resources and staff.

There are urgent questions for the ICS to answer, but unfortunately there is currently a complete lack of openness and information on what is going on. The changes take place 4 days before the NHS celebrates its 74th birthday on **Tuesday 5th July, when members of Sheffield Save Our NHS (SSONHS) will be handing out birthday cake outside Sheffield Town Hall between 4.30 and 6pm**. At the same time, SSONHS will be making the public aware of what is happening to their NHS.

Mick Suter, chair of SSONHS, said:

Anyone looking on the internet for information on who is running the NHS in Sheffield will be totally confused. There are active web-sites for the Sheffield CCG and the original shadow ICS which covered Bassetlaw as well as South Yorkshire. **Neither of these state that they will be abolished in 2 days time!**

In contrast, the web-site for the new South Yorkshire ICS currently has no information on it other than the names of the Board members and its constitution. Its strategy document is actually the one developed by the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw ICS which is clearly now out-of-date. The first Board meeting is to be held on 1st July, but the papers have been published on the old web-site with no links. **There are a large number of policies being pushed through at this meeting but there has been little time for the public to raise questions on them**. Contrast this with the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS where Board information has been prominent for some time and it is easy to access papers and submit questions to Board meetings online.

This confusion and the lack of information shows a contempt for the public and is not a good start to the new organisation with all the fears of privatisation, attacks on staff conditions and the other issues we have raised.

SSONHS has also raised the issue of **effective public consultation** on the establishment of the new ICS. It appears that only a limited number of 'stakeholders' have been consulted and we were told that it would not have been practical to consult more widely. This is not true – West Yorkshire for instance have consulted widely.

Worryingly, the organisations which should have been involved in developing the new ICS appear to have stopped meeting. The Joint CCG for South Yorkshire has not met since a one hour meeting in August 2020. The Citizens Panel has not met since July 2021, despite the fact that Board papers claim it was consulted on the Peoples and Communities Strategy from October 2021!

Mick Suter added:

There has been little information made public until now on what was happening and who was in control. Our main information was from papers submitted to the Sheffield CCG. But these are only for the CCG to 'note' not approve, so the question is – **who has been making the decisions and why aren't they accountable?** It is stated that there were no meetings of the JCCG in 2021 because there were 'no items to discuss'. This is ludicrous when the progress report to Sheffield's CCG in November 2021 stated that *The four [South Yorkshire] CCG have agreed a collective approach through the JCCCG*. How have they managed to do that without meeting!

We are in danger of facing chaos in the NHS in Sheffield from July 1st.

[Ends]

Notes for editors:

For further analysis of the legislation see
<https://healthcampaignstogether.com/flip/HCT18/HCTno18.html>
and <https://keepournhspublic.com/campaigns/scrap-the-health-and-care-bill/>

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Sheffield Save Our NHS (SSONHS) was formed in 2011 by concerned Sheffielders to fight against cuts and privatisation in the NHS initially provoked by the 2012 Health and Social Care Act. We have been involved in a number of campaigns, notably the successful one to stop the closure of the Minor Injuries Unit at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital and the Walk-in Centre in Broad Lane. We work with other campaigns locally and nationally through Health Campaigns Together and Keep Our NHS Public.

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