



# SAVE LEWISHAM HOSPITAL A&E

Following Saturday's magnificent demonstration of up to 10,000 people, support to keep Lewisham A+E open is at a peak. We must keep the pressure on and Health Staff now have a key role to play to stop the closure of Lewisham A+E. Your hard work and dedication has made this Casualty department very successful. It meets all of its targets and has one of the lowest hospital acquired infection rates. Hospital staff now need to organize within your trade unions to ensure that this casualty is not lost to the patients forever. Our professional codes of conduct instruct us to guard and protect patients and we know this decision to shut Lewisham casualty department is dangerous

and that it will cost lives.

The administrator Matthew Kershaw and the new chief executive of Lewisham and Woolwich NHS trust are directly responsible for the decision to shut this casualty down and they must be held to account by hospital staff and their trade union leaders. It's now time for the health trade unions UNISON, RCN, GMB, UNITE, the BMA and others to move into a dispute with Trust Managers and the administrators and unions must be urged by members to initiate and co-ordinate a programme of industrial action to fight for the staff who's jobs are at risk in this plan.

the nssn is supported by the following trade unions:



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[www.shopstewards.net](http://www.shopstewards.net)

## Hospital Staff can get together *en masse* and:

1. Petition their union branches for an EMERGENCY BRANCH meeting
2. Put forward and vote on a motion to be put to their union regional officials calling for health staff to be balloted over the closure of Lewisham A+E worded as follows:

### **This branch resolves to:**

- Call on regional officials to immediately organise a ballot/indicative ballot for action short of strike action wof all affected workers-
- Call on regional officials to campaign for a joint-union one-day stoppage of all affected workers, with emergency cover under the control of the unions involved, to take place as soon as possible.
- Affiliates to the 'Save Our Local Hospitals' and send delegates to SOLH meetings
- Affiliates to Lewisham Trades council where you will meet local patients and hospital campaigners and can work together to fight NHS cuts.

### **UNITED ACTION CAN WIN**

Your trade union is there to fight for you and your job. It's crucial that all NHS staff unite together within their unions and put the pressure on to resist NHS cuts and closures. If we can't do it for ourselves then we must do it for our patients. There is no such thing as a job for life in the NHS anymore and this is only because this government refuses to invest in the NHS. There's plenty of money for trident and big business so there is money for Lewisham casualty department to be kept open.

### **HEALTH WORKERS CAN STRIKE**

Nurses and Doctors CAN strike and their trade unions always negotiate emergency cover (bank holiday staff levels) when they do so to ensure that the patients are fully protected. Its far far better to push your unions to ballot for a programme of Industrial action than to loose Lewisham casualty department forever. Staff and patients have come together before and defeated planned closures. We have stopped the "Picture of Health" plans before, that threatened the closure of Lewisham A+E. The Whittington A+E campaign is another example of a victory against a planned closure. Together we can keep Lewisham A+E open!

**NSSN lobby of the TUC General Council  
'Name the date for a 24 hour general strike'  
From 8.30am Tuesday 11th December  
TUC Congress House, Great Russell Street  
London WC1B 3LS**