



International Discussion – an open meeting

HEALTH SERVICES: CONDITION CRITICAL

The international drive towards privatisation and marketisation of health care – and how to resist it

Saturday June 20, 10am-3pm, Coventry

We know that our National Health Service is under attack, facing fragmentation into a health care “market” in which ever-larger slices of the NHS budget are being carved out by profit-seeking private sector providers.

We know that the Private Finance Initiative (PFI), Independent Sector Treatment Centres, the privatisation of primary care, and now the break-up of PCT services are funnelling billions out of public sector providers to create a new private sector.

But how does this compare with what is taking place in other countries?

Health workers, trade unionists and campaigners are invited to take part in a meeting with a panel of national and international speakers who will explain

the ways in which publicly provided and accessible health care are under threat around the world, and share experiences of fighting back to defend services.

In many countries, including the UK, there is also the problem of ensuring that the general public is aware of what is taking place, and the threat to their local services.

The media has played a crucial role in supporting some local hospital campaigns, but the lack of media coverage on issues such as privatisation and marketisation can allow unpopular policies to proceed without debate or public challenge.

This meeting, the culmination of an international conference organised by the International Association of Health Policy

in Europe, with the support of Coventry University, is a unique opportunity to learn from campaigns and campaigners, give your input and experience, and to discuss our problems in an international context.

Speakers will include **NATALIE MEHRA** from the Ontario Health Coalition in Canada, **JOHN LISTER** of London Health Emergency, **MICHELLE STANISTREET**, Deputy General Secretary of the National Union of Journalists, a **BMA** speaker, **Keep Our NHS Public**, and speakers from Greece, Turkey, Spain, Germany, Belgium, and other European countries. Union speakers also invited.

Admission is free, and lunch is provided, but you are required to register in advance to obtain the necessary details on the venue, and to allow planning on numbers.

REGISTER NOW TO BOOK YOUR PLACE: Send your name, postal address, email address, and name of your organisation (if any) to: **Dr John Lister, CSAD, Coventry University, Priory St, Coventry CV1 5FB**, – or email j.lister@coventry.ac.uk