

Talking points you can use when campaigning on the NHS

1. The Tories are running our NHS into the ground:
 - One third of A&Es are facing closure.
 - Half of NHS authorities are being forced to cut the number of hospital beds.
 - 40% of mental health trusts had their funding cut last year.
 - 3.9 million people are on waiting lists.
 - Staff morale is at an all-time low as the government attacks training, wages and conditions in pursuit of a cheap, unregulated workforce, threatening patient care.
2. Unaccountable private companies are making profit from our health service at the taxpayers' expense. At the end of November Virgin Care were awarded a £700m contract to run community health and social care services in Bath.
3. The Government is using the crisis caused by deliberate underfunding to push forward £22 billion in cuts and further privatisation through Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs), which have been largely kept secret and have not been approved by Parliament. The Tories know how much we love our NHS, so they're trying to force these plans through the back door.
4. The Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, advocated in a book he wrote in 2005 that our NHS be replaced with private insurance. Doctors, nurses and GPs have all voted no confidence in Hunt to run our health service.
5. Jeremy Corbyn has pledged to renationalise the NHS, which is supported by 84% of the population. The next Labour government will bring the NHS back into public hands, as a high quality, properly funded health service, available to all who need it. But our NHS must be defended **now** so there is something left to renationalise.