

NOTICE OF MOTION**KEEPING NHS SERVICES PUBLIC**

“Since 2006 large private companies have been able to take over or establish GP practices under ‘Alternative Provider Medical Services Contracts’ (APMSC). This new approach, where the need for corporate profit conflicts with patient needs, threatens the trusted model of a partnership of GPs owning and running a surgery for their patients. The city of Brighton & Hove now has five GP practices run by ChilversMcCrea Healthcare.

This council notes with concern that in privately run NHS services including GP practices, polyclinics and independent specialist treatment centres (ISTCs):

- Bids from traditional GP partnerships are often undercut by multi-national health companies;
- Doctors work on shorter term contracts leading to increased staff turnover and dramatically less continuity of care for patients;
- Important information on the cost and level of service provided becomes hidden from scrutiny under the cloak of ‘commercial confidentiality’;
- Proposals are constructed to keep profitable services private while leaving publicly-funded services to pick up the complex, costly cases leaving any cost savings in private hands.

UNISON, the King’s Fund and the House of Commons Health Committee have all raised concerns with these new contractual agreements.

At the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee’s meeting on 5th November Brighton & Sussex Universities NHS Trust acknowledged a £2-3 million per annum loss for handling the complex cases left to them by the privately-run Sussex Orthopaedic Treatment Centre, which focuses only on simple cases without co-morbidity. Given that the Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust is currently calling for bids on a new GP-led healthcare centre; this council:

- Rejects the creeping privatisation of NHS services;
- Expresses concern over the financial impact of the Sussex Orthopaedic Treatment Centre;
- And asks the Chief Executive to write to Alan Johnson, Secretary of State for Health and Darren Grayson, Chief Executive of the local PCT asking them to cease further APMSC and ISTC contracts and to reject corporate bids for the proposed GP-led health centre.”

Proposed by: Cllr Jason Kitcat

Seconded by: Cllr Sven Rufus

