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Dear Councillor .....

**SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION PLANS**

**THE END GAME FOR THE NHS**

I am writing to ask you to stop the Council from signing its agreement to implementation of the South West London Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP). All STPs have been drawn up in conditions of secrecy imposed by NHS England, which is an abuse of our democratic rights. They will accelerate NHS cuts, closures, privatisation and the irreversible sale of NHS land.

The draft STP for the South West London "Footprint" was leaked to the Health Service Journal. It presages massive cuts which, if implemented, will seriously degrade healthcare provision in the area, and will undoubtedly place lives at risk. A major part of those risks would derive from the priority the STP recommends be given to the Epsom and St Helier Estate.

As you may be aware, the Epsom and St Helier Trust and two CCGs jointly paid £300,000 to DeLoitte for a report to assert that the buildings were not fit for purpose and to make a case for their closure. If what I believe to be the preferred option in that report is implemented, those the Trust serves will have available fewer beds per thousand than Columbia, but only if the half sized replacement "centre" is built. What is worse, Jeremy Hunt has said he will block the building of any new hospital in South West London.

Figures given by the Trust indicate that it serves a population of 500,000 that will increase to 650,000 by 2020/25. Kingston, St Georges and Croydon hospitals already struggle and could not cope with 650,000 extra people to serve if Epsom, St Helier and Queen Mary's Childrens hospitals close.

Julia Simon, who recently quit as Head of NHS England's commissioning policy unit and programme director for co-commissioning of primary care, has warned that forcing health and care organisations to jointly produce such complex and drastic plans (STPs) so quickly is likely to backfire. She said organisations are likely to make unrealistic forecasts and claims about finance and clinical benefits "and then you have a lot of lies in the system about the financial position, benefits that will be delivered".

These plans should, at the very least, be subject to proper scrutiny in Council and Joint Health Scrutiny Committees. If these Plans are allowed to be developed without full public and Councillor scrutiny, and are simply rubber stamped by the Health and Wellbeing Board without proper knowledge or understanding of their content and consequences, then the Council will have failed to carry out due diligence in protecting the NHS on behalf of the public.

Statements from NHS England and the NHS Confederation (which represents the interest of private health companies) show how STPs are the vehicle for completing the destruction and privatisation of the NHS.

Our neighbours in North West London - Hammersmith & Fulham and Ealing Councils - have refused to sign off their STP – which has the potential to block its imposition.

You are in a position to block the imposition of the South West London STP. I call on you as my elected representative to do all in your power to ensure that our Council refuses to sign off our area's STP.

The local and national electorate will not forgive any councillor or MP who allows our NHS to be destroyed in this way and I will hold you personally responsible if these plans are enacted and we lose vital hospital and medical services.

Your electors all rely on you to save the best and most cost effective health service in the developed world – the greatest creation of any nation - our NHS.

Yours sincerely,