

SAVE OUR NHS!

Q

- How much does it cost to change a lightbulb?

A

- £333 if you are a private company working for the NHS!

local details

New Labour, and the Tories before them, have introduced attack after attack on the health service. The government are trying to take away our right to a decent healthcare. However, they have met huge determination to defend the health service from ordinary working class people. In the last six months of last year, 100,000 people marched in various areas across the UK. Local campaigns have sprung up, demonstrations have been organised in almost every area where cuts have been threatened, and protesters are getting organised and fighting back. We need as many people as possible to get involved in this movement, to fight back against the governments' cuts and closures and fight for a decent NHS.

No to cuts and privatisation!

The health service has seen attack after attack throughout our lifetimes. Measures have been taken behind the scenes to split up the NHS into different chunks, and subcontract the different elements to private companies to actually run the health services. This division of all the different tasks that that NHS provides into separate compartments has resulted in a huge increase in administration, pushing it from 6% of the total budget in 1990 towards American healthcare levels of almost 25% of spending!

Management consultants and private advisors have



poured in, putting their profit margins ahead of the interests of the people who actually use the health service. The result is cuts in the number of beds, nurses and other medical staff, and closures of hospital wards, doctor's surgeries and other essential services.

ISR are opposed to the cuts and privatisation that we are seeing. We fight against the introduction of private profit into the health service, and for it to be fully publicly funded, to meet the needs of the population.

link up for a national movement

Demonstrations and protests have all happened the length and breadth of the country. ISR members have been involved in these in local areas, and it is very important to continue these campaigns. However, we also argue for the local campaigns to be united under a fighting national federation, to organise a national fight back. Local demonstrations have been up to 30,000 strong. It's time the anger was united, and translated into national action.

These attacks may be taking different forms in different areas, but it is the same government policy that is being implemented everywhere. A national campaign would show that it is opposition to not just the closure of one ward, or the removal of beds in one hospital, but opposition to all ward closures, all bed removals, all of

