



Going into 2019



We would like to congratulate the people of South Tyneside, and staff & clinicians at the hospital who have - and are continuing - to oppose the **downgrading of our vital acute health services at our District General Hospital**. So far, this fight has been against Phase-1 of the so-called “*Path to Excellence*” in order to save our high performing children's 24-hour A&E, our highly rated maternity services and Special Care Baby Unit, and for the restoration of stroke rehabilitation services at our hospital.

In order to oppose further downgrading of services in Phase-2 **we call on you to help us build our campaign** so we can take up the responsibility to safeguard the future of our health services in South Tyneside and across the region.

OUR WORK SO FAR:

Over the last two years we launched a petition that now has over 40,000 signatures. The people of South Tyneside and Sunderland have held five significant demonstrations, and regular well-attended public meetings.

LEGAL ACTION:

In May 2018 Phase-1 of hospital service closures (the so-called “*Path to Excellence*”) was referred to the Secretary of State by the Joint South Tyneside and Sunderland Health Scrutiny Committee who challenged the validity of the consultation stating that the plans were “*not in the best interests of the people of South Tyneside*”. This referral was (unsurprisingly) rejected by a government committed to NHS privatisation.

In December 2018 we challenged the sham consultation on Phase-1 in a High Court Judicial Review in Leeds. So far our legal challenge has been unsuccessful, but we haven't ruled out an appeal.

**This is far from the end,
our fight is just beginning.**

GOING INTO 2019:

Already this year the people of South Tyneside have **lost the in-patient palliative care service at St Clare's Hospice and the walk-in service at Bunny Hill**. Phase-2 of the so-called “*Path to Excellence*” aims to further downgrade our acute hospital services. This plan is part of the government's whole agenda to radically reduce the public health system in England in favour of private clinical providers. We urgently need your help to build the resistance to block these plans in 2019.

OUR POSITION:

- **Health care is a right!**
- **We demand locally accessible district hospitals with a wide range of properly funded acute, community and mental health services.**
- **We demand that vital services are retained in South Tyneside and Sunderland.**
- **We demand an end to the marketisation and privatisation of the NHS.**

www.savesouthtynesidehospital.org

**Access to health care is a
right of all in a modern society;
We demand that it be guaranteed.**

**Save South Tyneside Hospital
Campaign**

Contact: 07963 506 451