

To oppose further downgrading of services in phase-2 we call on you to help build our campaign. Government plans, known locally as the "Path to Excellence", aim to turn South Tyneside Hospital into a "cold site" without the vital acute and emergency services that it presently provides; moving those services to Sunderland, which is one of a smaller number of "hot sites" with increasingly overcrowded services that are further away from home.

Oppose South Tyneside and Sunderland Councils arranging loans to downgrade our hospital. The Trust has asked for £35-million from the council. Contact your councillor:

www.savesouthtynesidehospital.org/write/

Share your experiences to help us build a picture of the human cost of service cuts and closures: www.savesouthtynesidehospital.org/stories/

Attend one of our bi-weekly meetings: www.savesouthtynesidehospital.org/events/

OUR WORK SO FAR:

Over the last 3 years SSTHC has launched its petition against this plan (now with over 41,000 signatures). The people of South Tyneside and Sunderland have held six demonstrations, regular public meetings, and large public discussions such as the event in July with Professor Allyson Pollock.

In May 2018 phase-1 of hospital service closures affecting -- 24/7 children's A&E, full maternity, our Special Care Baby Unit, and stroke services -- was referred to the Secretary of State by the Joint South Tyneside and Sunderland Health Scrutiny Committee who stated that the plans were "not in the best interests of the people of South Tyneside". This referral was rejected by the government.

In December 2018 we challenged the phase-1 consultation at a High Court Judicial Review in Leeds, and lost. We've now been granted our appeal in the High Court, London.

Still responding to phase-1, we are encouraging people to share their specific experiences of the cuts and closures via our website.

PRESENT FOCUS: PHASE-2

The CCG said that a consultation would be launched in summer 2019 on new proposals to downgrade our hospital. It looks like this will be delayed until next year because government / NHS England have refused to pay for phase-2. The CCG and Trust have requested that South Tyneside and Sunderland councils arrange loans (£35 & £15-million respectively). We are presently locked in a battle with our local authorities to stop them arranging this finance to further downgrade our hospital.

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.

Contact: 07963 506 451

www.savesouthtynesidehospital.org

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