

KEEP THE HORTON GENERAL



On Monday 10 September Keep the Horton General was represented in the House of Commons by Charlotte Bird and Roseanne Edwards from the Banbury Guardian.

They attended a meeting 'Is anyone listening?' organised by Steve Carne of 999 Call for the NHS. The purpose was to bring health campaigners together with MPs to discuss the role of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel and the NHS in general.

Spokespeople representing Calderdale and Kirklees 999 Call for the NHS, Fighting 4 Life Lincolnshire, North Kirklees Support the NHS, Save our Hospital Services Devon, Save Rothbury Community Hospital and STITCH (Save the Irreplaceable Torrington Community Hospital) along with a local deputation from Hammersmith representing Charing Cross, addressed 11 MPs. Originally it was thought that six MPs would attend but their figures swelled – as a result of the subject matter being discussed?

Rosie Cooper – Health Select Committee (Labour), Norman Lamb (Liberal Democrat MP for North Norfolk) and Matt Warman (Tory MP for Boston and Skegness) were evidence of the cross party interest in this inaugural event.

Various MPs attending the meeting has previously worked in the NHS so the subject is dear to their hearts. Paula Sheriff who had sponsored the meeting was an NHS employee for 13 years prior to becoming an MP whilst Eleanor Smith, who will be taking the NHS Reinstatement Bill through Parliament on October 26th, was previously a theatre nurse and Unison rep.

Without exception the MPs urged the campaigners 'to keep the pressure on and to hold the feet of the MPs to the fire'.

For more details contact our Chairman, Keith Strangwood:

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