Winning strategies against health privatisation

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Context: health privatisation in England

- Private providers in NHS since early 1990s
- Hinchingbroke Hospital:
  - only NHS hospital to be managed by private company (Circle) 2010-2015
  - Circle pulled out of contract 2015 5 years early
- Health and Social Care Act 2012:
  - moved £60-80 billion commissioning of services to local Clinical Commissioning Groups
  - Introduced concept of "Any Qualified Provider"
UNISON's strategy

- Active engagement with local community campaigns against privatisation
- Challenging the procurement process:
  - training local activists so they have the confidence in the process
  - demanding impact assessments
  - unpicking arguments and costings
  - using external procurement expert
  - threatening legal action, especially where there is no impact assessment
Beating back privatisation and outsourcing

- Positive results:
  - Hospital trusts and CCGs get nervous and back off
  - 2 failed attempts to privatise NHS hospitals since 2012 Act: (George Elliot Hospital & Western General Hospital)
  - Private companies walk away because they don't want the fall out esp. after real impact assessments are done
  - Independent studies show scale of outsourcing far lower than anticipated when 2012 Act took effect