



# Winning strategies against health privatisation

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## Context: health privatisation in England

- Private providers in NHS since early 1990s
- Hinchingsbroke 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"



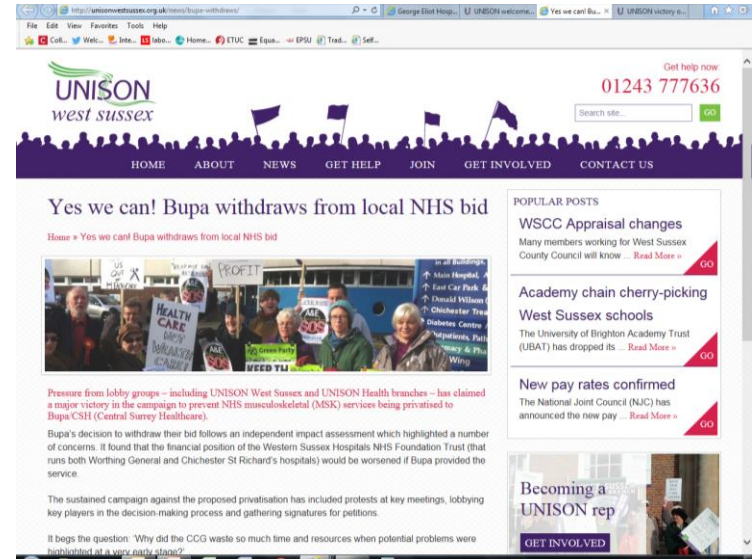
## UNISON's strategy

- 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



The screenshot shows the UNISON West Sussex website. The main headline is "Yes we can! Bupa withdraws from local NHS bid". Below the headline is a photograph of a group of people holding signs that say "HEALTH CARE NOT FOR PROFIT" and "BUPA OUT". The article text states: "Pressure from lobby groups – including UNISON West Sussex and UNISON Health branches – has claimed a major victory in the campaign to prevent NHS musculoskeletal (MSK) services being privatised to Bupa/CSH (Central Surrey Healthcare). Bupa's decision to withdraw their bid follows an independent impact assessment which highlighted a number of concerns. It found that the financial position of the Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (that runs both Worthing General and Chichester St Richard's hospitals) would be worsened if Bupa provided the service. The sustained campaign against the proposed privatisation has included protests at key meetings, lobbying key players in the decision-making process and gathering signatures for petitions. It begs the question 'Why did the CCG waste so much time and resources when potential problems were highlighted at a very early stage?'". On the right side of the page, there are "POPULAR POSTS" including "WSCC Appraisal changes", "Academy chain cherry-picking West Sussex schools", and "New pay rates confirmed".



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