

# What's Happening to the NHS? How will it affect Greater Manchester?

## ●Crisis in funding for the NHS – after 12 years of austerity. How does this affect your access to health services?

Have you had to wait hours in A&E, or even in an ambulance, before getting the treatment you need? Experts warn that the delays in getting timely emergency care could be causing 300 to 500 deaths per week.

Are you one of the 7 million people on a waiting list for 'non-urgent' treatment (which probably *does* feel urgent to you)? **The NHS needs more funding and resources to treat all of us, you and your family.**

## ●Changes to the way the NHS is run. What does this mean to you and your family?

In July 2022, the NHS in England was split into 42 Integrated Care Systems (ICS), run by an Integrated Care Board (ICB) responsible for health services for us all. The ten Greater Manchester Local Councils are involved with the NHS and voluntary sector groups in planning health services, as the Integrated Care Partnership Board. Councillors, as our elected representatives, could have a say in ensuring we get the healthcare we need when we need it.

**But the government holds the purse strings so still has overall control.**

## ●Private Healthcare Companies—profiting from our ill health

The government props up private healthcare companies by using them to provide NHS services. So part of **our taxes** which pay for the NHS are boosting **their profits** and giving **payouts to shareholders**.

**GM KONP  
supports  
striking  
health staff**



@filmathan

We must do whatever we can to defend the NHS. Together we can:

**Sign the petition:** <https://keepournhspublic.com/petition-rebuild-our-nhs/>

**Contact our councillors and our MPs** to demand that the government gives resources to the NHS to address these crises and problems.

**Demonstrate on 11th March in London:** defend the NHS, stop cuts in services, stop the waste of money going to private health companies and shareholders. [keepournhspublic.com/event/sos-nhs-national-demonstration-sat-11-march/](https://keepournhspublic.com/event/sos-nhs-national-demonstration-sat-11-march/)



Website: <https://keepournhspublicgmcr.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GMKONP>

Email: [konpmcr@hotmail.com](mailto:konpmcr@hotmail.com)

# Crises and Threats to the NHS

## 1) Funding

Before the pandemic, Conservative governments had cut funding for the NHS, so there are fewer doctors, nurses, or hospital beds than in other similar countries. The pandemic made things much worse, and staff and services are still suffering. The UK is a rich country yet the government refuses to use national resources to make sure the NHS is safe. So the NHS – and its services for YOU – is under great threat.

In Greater Manchester, NHS Trusts (hospital and community and mental health services) spend more than they get – but the government says they must ‘break even’ by the end of March. Will they have to cut or ration services? The ICB says there are no plans to do that. How can they provide the health services we need if the government isn’t giving enough money?

**Contact your local councillors and your MP – to demand the NHS is fully funded and resourced to meet health care needs of you, your family, your community.**

## 2) Staffing

Not enough new staff have replaced those who have left their jobs because they cannot stand the strain. For 12 years the government has failed to draw up a staffing plan to ensure the NHS has enough doctors, nurses, paramedics, radiographers, and other staff. There are about 130,000 vacancies in the NHS; it’s particularly bad for Community and Mental Health Nurses. And social care needs 165,000 more staff.

Despite efforts to keep staff about 12% of the 80,000 staff in Greater Manchester NHS Trusts leave each year. Vacancies are filled by other staff working more hours, or by bank or agency staff – which isn’t ideal, and costs a lot. Staff haven’t had a pay rise to match inflation for years.

**No wonder they’re taking strike action over their pitiful pay.**

**Contact your local councillors and your MP – to demand that the NHS recruits, trains and pays staff better.**

## 3) Capital Investment

Hospitals and other health buildings are falling apart for lack of money. Many desperately need repair or replacement. Royal Oldham and Salford Royal Hospitals have roofs made of a type of concrete which could suddenly collapse. They could wait for 12 years unless the government agrees to an urgent repair programme.

**Contact your local councillors and your MP – to demand funding to replace worn out, unsafe buildings.**

## 4) Private Profiteers

Private companies rely on NHS trained staff – they don’t have a separate pool of doctors, nurses, radiographers and other health staff. If you need cataract surgery, any fairly simple surgery or have musculoskeletal problems (like hip or knee replacement) you’re likely to be treated by a private healthcare company NOT the NHS. You won’t have to pay, of course (for now), but it means NHS services are being run down, so in the future we will have no choice. If you need urgent aftercare the NHS has to pick this up. In Greater Manchester spending on private health companies for eye problems, for diagnostics and for mental health services is already over the budget.

**Contact your local councillors and your MP – to demand the NHS stops using private healthcare companies to provide NHS services and rebuilds necessary capacity within the NHS.**