

Action needed on Wycombe Hospital

Steven Baker, Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Wycombe, today launched the Conservative campaign for Wycombe Hospital and our reform plan for the NHS.

When David Cameron became leader of the Conservative Party four and a half years ago, he made clear that the NHS was our number one priority and it has remained our priority ever since.

The reform plan is based on decentralisation, accountability and transparency. Applying these ideas to the NHS will help improve it for everyone and allow the NHS to meet people's expectations. Instead of bureaucratic accountability there will be democratic accountability. We will decentralise power, so that patients have a real choice. By publishing information about the kind of results that healthcare providers are achieving, we will make sure there is no hiding place for failure. If patients don't like what they are offered, they will be able to find an alternative. This will drive up standards by allowing people to choose the best providers.

Enabling doctors and nurses to be responsive to patients' needs, not to endless layers of bureaucracy, will save billions, meaning we can spend more on the frontline services that make a real difference.

Steve said:

"Time and again, local people tell me of their concern about the loss of services at Wycombe Hospital. As we can see from the recent campaign on Facebook, thousands are dismayed that we have lost maternity services. Others are deeply concerned about the lack of full-service accident and emergency care. We all know distressing accounts of inadequate health care and local doctors have told me they are fed up with constraints and reorganisations.

"Above all, people feel powerless. I am dismayed when I find people have given up hope of receiving the services they expect. We need our hospital under our control.

"We need to get to the root of this problem. Whoever wins the next election, I will be demanding:

- Fair funding
- Local control
- Freedom for clinical professionals

We need our hospital and our health care under our control.

"I hope the people of Wycombe and the other parties' spokesmen will join me in this campaign by signing our petition online."

ENDS

For more information please contact Steve Baker, 07855 333023,
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Notes to Editors

Petition at www.stevebaker.info/hospital

Through the period leading up to the general election, Steve will be gathering local support for this campaign. In the new Parliament, the petition will be delivered to the Secretary of State for Health.

The Conservative Draft Health Manifesto may be found here:

<http://issuu.com/conservatives/docs/drafthealthmanifesto>

Selected key commitments in the draft manifesto include:

A patient-centred NHS:

- We will set NHS providers free to innovate by ensuring they become autonomous Foundation Trusts.
- To make sure the NHS is funded on the basis of clinical need, not political expediency, we will create an independent NHS board to allocate resources to different parts of the country and make access to the NHS more equal.
- We will scrap all of the politically-motivated process targets that stop health professionals doing their jobs properly.
- We will give everyone the power to choose any healthcare provider that meets NHS standards.
- We will open up the NHS to include new independent and voluntary sector providers.
- We will implement a 'payment for results' system throughout the NHS.
- We will give GPs the power to hold patients' budgets and commission care on their behalf.

A more accessible and accountable NHS:

- Hospitals will not be paid in full for a treatment which leaves a patient with an avoidable infection.
- We will reform the way drug companies are paid for NHS medicines so that any cost-effective treatment can be made available through the NHS, with drug providers paid according to the value of their new treatments.
- A Conservative government will give mothers a real choice over where to have their baby, with NHS funding following their choices, and allow new providers to deliver maternity care – especially services like ante- and post-natal support.
- We will introduce local 'maternity networks' to ensure that mothers can safely access the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

Improving the Nation's public health:

- With less political interference in the NHS, we will turn the Department of Health into a Department of Public Health so that the prevention of illness gets the attention from government it needs.
- We will provide separate public health funding to local authorities.