

Unions pull out of talks with HSE over Midwest cuts

FOR UNITED ACTION TO STOP THE CUTS

The Campaign for a Real Public Health Service (CRPHS) welcomes the decision by the health unions in the Mid-west to pull out of discussions with the HSE about their insane and dangerous plans to downgrade Ennis and Nenagh hospitals.

The HSE's plans will mean tens of thousands more patients will be crammed into the already overcrowded regional hospital in Limerick. It cannot, and will not cope. There were 21 patients on trolley's there yesterday - these plans will see that number sore till, like happened in Drogheda, the A&E has to close its doors to new patients.

It is very positive to see the unions take a stand on this. They should now come out clearly and condemn the the HSE's centralisation plans themselves, as well as the lack of time for consultation which they have highlighted. A clear statement should be sent that no union member or health worker will cooperate with this, or any

other, attack on our public health service. The unions have the power to stop these plans dead, if they so wish.

Our campaign would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to the unions, for joint campaign work against these cuts. Already thousands have come onto the streets protests in the Mid west, including on organised by the CRPHS last October. By uniting health workers, patients, community groups and the general public in a campaign to defend our A&Es, we can force the government to back down.

This effects all workers in the Mid-west, not just health workers. Thats why all unions should come out and state their opposition to the cuts, organise protests, rallies and industrial action if neccesary to stop the plans, and show the our opposition to the attacks on the health service, and health staff in general.

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