

**Yesterday (23 February) in parliament –
Islington North’s MP, Jeremy Corbyn, stands up for local health:**

With the future of the Whittington Hospital firmly in his mind, Jeremy Corbyn intervened during topical questions to the Secretary of State on Tuesday in the House of Commons. He questioned the complete lack of accountability of decision making at the London North Central Health Authorities, in their proposed reconfiguration of health services which includes the threat to the Whittington A&E department.

Jeremy Corbyn put it to the Minister: North Central London strategic health authority is planning massive cuts, a £500 million reduction in its budget and the closure of A and E departments, including one at the Whittington hospital. Many of us find those decisions unpalatable and wrong, but above all we have great difficulty bringing to account the people who are making those plans and decisions. Will the Secretary of State tell me how we can make those officials accountable to the public for their decisions and planning?

Mr. Mike O’Brien replied: As I understand it, those reviews are at an early stage and there are no clear and firm proposals. Local clinicians need to be at the heart of those recommendations, and any changes need to, and must, be the subject of full local consultation.

Jeremy said today: “

“I welcome what the minister said but I demand something a bit more, which is: intervention and a full review of what is going on over health planning in North London. I do not see why my constituents should be put at risk by an unaccountable and unelected health authority whilst MPs and local Councillors are kept in the dark.”

“A huge crowd of people are expected at this Saturday’s protest march which leaves Highbury Corner at 12noon, and if you are reading this and can join in on Saturday, that would send a clear message to the authorities that we want the Whittington A&E to stay.” END

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