

## **Oppose Closure of Waldron Health Walk-In Centre**

Proposer: Tara Mariwany

Secunder: Taylor McGraa

This Union Notes:

- 1) That the NHS Waldron Health Walk-In Centre is partnered with Goldsmiths University and Goldsmiths Students' Union
- 2) That "the centre is for patients who are unable to get an urgent appointment with their GP and who have a minor injury or medical condition that is not life-threatening but needs to be seen"
- 3) That in 2016/17 the centre saw 29,528 patients
- 4) That "Lewisham is the only local remaining CCG with a Walk-in Centre meaning people from other parts of south east London are using it. Last year 17.5% of people using the Walk-in Centre were from neighbouring south east London boroughs."
- 5) That the contract for the Walk-in Centre ends on 31 December 2017, and "cannot be renewed" but a new contract can be set up
- 6) That the NHS Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group (LCCG) have proposed the centre be closed, with a consultation period ending on Monday 30 October 2017, 5pm
- 7) That the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign (SLHC) have said the consultation started too soon without local NHS staff were not made aware of the potential closure to the announcement of the consultation
- 8) That the nearest Urgent Care Centre is at University Hospital Lewisham, and approximately a 30-minute ride away by public transport

This Union Believes:

- 1) That to argue "Walk-in Centres do not encourage better health" erases:
- 2) The reality of long GP waiting times, which can often last weeks
- 3) The need of those with precarious addresses, namely migrants, as well as students, to access the necessary services offered by the Walk-In Centre
- 4) Students who have recently moved to the area who may not have registered with a GP yet, or are waiting to be officially transferred
- 5) That the growth of student numbers means that we need an increase in local health care provisions, not a decrease
- 6) That Walk-In Centres are a very valuable community resource and the only one left in the local area should not be closed
- 7) That the Urgent Care Centre at University Hospital Lewisham is too far for someone sickly
- 8) That ultimately, closing the centre will leave tens of thousands of vulnerable people without this necessary service

This Union Resolves:

- 1) To urge students to fill in the consultation survey in order to oppose the proposed closure
- 2) To link up with Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign (SLHC)
- 3) To be prepared for a larger opposition campaign if the decision is made to close it
- 4) To commit putting Union resources behind a campaign