



Dear Doctor/Surgery Manager,

## SAVE MY WELWYN HATFIELD SURGERY CAMPAIGN

Recently I received a letter from Dr Frances Cranfield on behalf of local GP Surgeries, raising serious worries over the planned Polyclinic for Welwyn Hatfield. This is an issue that has concerned me and my colleagues in Parliament and has some potentially very damaging consequences for Welwyn Hatfield, as Dr Cranfield makes clear.

My concern is that healthcare in Welwyn Hatfield has been treated not only as a political football, but is also moving in a direction which appears to suit the interests of Whitehall officials and Westminster politicians, rather than local health professionals and their patients. The removal of key frontline services from neighbourhood surgeries, to be replaced by a 'Super-clinic' on the site of the downgraded QEII Hospital, bodes badly for the relationship between doctors and their patients, as well as the latter's access to immediate and personalised healthcare.

In addition to the basic tenets and implications of the policy, it appears that the government is seeking to implement this ill-advised strategy through untoward means. They have not opened the plans to public consultation and nor do they seem intent on doing so. Equally, there has been minimal (if any) consultation with health professionals whose practices this will directly affect.

In response, I am taking steps to support local doctors in their efforts to oppose the move. As one part of this, I have launched a campaign to raise awareness and generate public support for GP Surgeries. A main step in this sort of campaign is to host a website which will act as a centre for up-to-date information and a platform for a petition against the policy. I hope you will visit [www.SaveMySurgery.com](http://www.SaveMySurgery.com) and recommend it to patients and colleagues as much as possible.

In addition, we have produced this 'Surgery Pack', which is designed to promote the campaign among those to whom the issue matters most – the users of your surgery. I would be very grateful if you would display one or all of the posters provided in your waiting room, as well as providing petition forms for patients to sign. I have also produced some A5 leaflets and 'business cards' in order that patients can be further informed if they do not have direct access to the internet.

I hope these materials will be of use to you. Replacements can be found by going to [www.SaveMySurgery.com](http://www.SaveMySurgery.com) and downloading the 'Surgery Pack' documents.

I hope you and your surgery staff will be active in supporting this campaign as it is of such huge consequence for local people. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions or comments – my contact details are listed below.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Grant Shapps'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Grant Shapps

Member of Parliament for Welwyn Hatfield