



'health is not a commodity which can be bought or sold.

A passion for the NHS is priceless'

Through the last three weeks of summer 2014, the People's March for the NHS has replicated the steps of the original Jarrow marchers, taking the brave marchers from Tyneside, down through Yorkshire and the Midlands to finally arrive in Westminster on September 6th.

The protest is being led by a group of mothers from Darlington, County Durham.

Following in the footsteps of the famous Jarrow Marchers, who marched for jobs back in 1936, the group of 'Darlo Mums' have meticulously organised a replica march, this time in support of the NHS.

The marchers left Jarrow Town Hall on 16th August, gathering hundreds and thousands of supporters every step of the way – and will arrive in Trafalgar Square, London at 3.30pm after marching the final leg from Red Lion Square, Holborn from 2.30pm.

The message from the mums is a simple one – that the NHS is owned by and loved by us and every effort will be made to stop it from being sold off to those who put profit before people.

The marchers will be greeted on their arrival by thousands of supporters of the NH, including noted musician and campaigner Billy Bragg.

Billy Bragg said

'The National Health Service is our collective inheritance - not something to be sold off to the highest bidder. If we want it to still be there for our grandchildren, free at point of need, we have to fight for it now.'

The mums say the reasons for their protest is simple – we want to see a repeal of the Health and Social Care Act and we are aiming for four things :

- Reverse the closure of NHS services
- Halt the privatisation of NHS care
- Return responsibility for delivering NHS services to the Secretary of State for Health
- Inform the public about what is happening to the NHS and build support for the NHS

The Darlo Mums said :

'the Darlo Mums are extremely humble that a journey which started just a few weeks ago has brought together thousands of people from across the country. Now we are over the moon that Billy Bragg will be joining the grand finale of this incredible People's March for the NHS.

No longer can politicians who prefer to sit back and watch this sell off, ignore a mass mobilisation of people fighting to keep our NHS.'

The NHS was created to deliver free and equal healthcare for all irrespective of wealth and those principles are being easily dismantled – which is why the mums believe people should be prepared to fight for it.

By September 6th, the NHS heroes, which include about 30 '300 milers' will have made their way through 23 towns and cities in just over three weeks. From major cities likes Leeds, Sheffield and Leicester to winding country lanes and fields in Yorkshire where rural communities offered them home baked cakes and treats as they stepped along their way, singing their now well rehearsed rally songs. The marchers have slept on school floors and in community centres, spoken at sun soaked and rainswept rallies on the way and now after thousands of footsteps these NHS crusaders are finally nearing their goal.

Also on stage will be the Olympic Pandemonium Drummers, Bristol NHS Flash Choir and Question Musiq performing We Need our A&E. Commentator and author Owen Jones will be joined by an array of speakers – including Rehana Azaz and Jo Adams of the Darlo Mums.

Shadow Secretary of State for Health Andy Burnham MP will speak at the Bedford rally on 2nd September and along with Lord Robert Winston and iconic film maker Ken Loach, sends a message of support to the London event. There will also be a message of solidarity from Guardian writer Harry Leslie Smith, who remembers the first Jarrow march.

The marchers ask supporters to sign up and join the fight at <http://999callforNHS.org.uk>

'This is our NHS, we made it, we pay for it and we love it. Will you fight for it?'

ENDS

For further information please contact us on :

Twitter @999CallforNHS or 07961289620/07816047688 Rehana Azam

For press arrangements for London event please contact

Jos Bell 0208 694 0121/07977090972

THE RALLY

SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 3.30PM*

Trafalgar Square

Speakers:

Owen Jones, columnist,
author & commentator
Our fantastic Darlo Mums
NHS campaigners
And more...

Supported by:

Olympic Pandemonium Drummers
NHS Flash Choir, Bristol

EDMONTON GREEN N9 9DX 10.00AM

CLISSOLD PARK N16 9HJ 11.45AM-12.45PM*

RED LION SQUARE WC1R 4HQ 2.00PM*

TRAFALGAR SQUARE WC2N 5DN 3.30PM*

* Times are approximate. To avoid disappointment it is advised that you arrive at these locations 30 minutes in advance, particularly for the rally which will commence when the marchers arrive at their final destination (tbc). The main joining point is Red Lion Square. You can also check our Twitter feed (below) for location updates.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Pavement marching only from Edmonton to Holborn

Road marching : Red Lions Sq, Proctor St, Kingsway, Aldwych via Bush Ho, Strand to Trafalgar Sq.

No interviews in Red Lion Square due to space restrictions – cameras & recording only please on the corner of Proctor St and Red Lion Sq south-side

> 2 speeches and then one song from Mr Bragg prior to march-off

There will be a dedicated press area in Trafalgar Sq south side, close to the stage (press pass only)

Background :

#darlomums are a diverse group of women from Darlington and comprise Joanna Adams, Rehana Azam, Mel Wilson, Linda Hughes, Jo Lande, Cath McArdle, Hazel Commene, Wendy Parker, Rosie and Helen Webber and Emma Tyers. Between them they have 13 kids and two on the way.

#darlomums have a range of jobs including 3 working in a local call centre, 1 union officer, 1 councillor, 1 café owner, 1 teacher, 1 nursing student, 1 graphic designer and 1 beauty therapist.

Website

999callforthenhs.org.uk

Twitter: @999CallforNHS