

SOS Darlington Memorial Hospital

Darlington has a non-Party Political Campaign fighting to avoid the downgrading of Darlington Memorial Hospital's key services. This campaign is supported by both Darlington's Labour Party MP Jenny Chapman and Richmond Conservative Party MP Rishi Sunak. Proposals to be put forward by County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation trust could well include the loss of Darlington's A&E Dept. and Consultant led maternity services.

This campaign is therefore aimed at preventing these changes becoming the preferred option when the formal consultation commences on the 1st June.

If DMH lost its A&E it would mean medical Emergencies being transferred to James Cook, North Tees or Durham which could have a very significant impact on the safety of our rural communities.

Given the above, the prospect of all A&E services being transferred away from Darlington, and with the Ambulance service under such severe strain, the end result could be that lives may be lost due to the extra time taken to get appropriate hospital care.

At the Hurworth Parish Council meeting on 2nd February, the council voted unanimously to support this campaign.