Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing in response to the cuts to Adult Social Care unveiled at last weeks Health and Wellbeing board. A number of our members from Sussex Defend the NHS attended last weeks meeting.

We were appalled to learn of the proposal to slash £21.9 million from the Adult Social Care budget over the next 4 years. Not only will this have disastrous consequences for vulnerable or frail adults, but it will also have an immediate and very negative knock on effect for our already stretched NHS budgets. Adults who were previously cared for within this budget, will now have nowhere to turn but the very overstretched and understaffed NHS. It will put additional pressure on GP’s and Accident and Emergency services and will cause enormous suffering and hardship to many individuals and families. We have an increasingly ageing population with all the increasing pressure on services that brings.

Management buzz phrases and pretty words do not disguise the fact that the whole rationale of this report is to encourage more personal responsibility and thus less reliance on a whole range of essential services in order to save money. The report is nothing but a ‘direction of travel’ towards privatization of essential services, which is exactly the aim of central government. It is completely unrealistic to assume that any more ‘efficiency savings’ can be made from Council budgets. Instead these proposals will put people’s lives at risk.

We therefore call on Brighton and Hove council to make urgent representation to central government and to join forces with the Local Government Association and other local authorities as well as local campaign groups in resisting these horrendous cuts and all aspects of the government’s plans.