

**ESNEFT:
IN-HOUSE
IS BEST**



UNISON

Dear Member of the Public,

We are cleaners, porters, caterers, security, admin staff, goods receivers, drivers and other soft facilities management staff who work in hospitals and community sites from Colchester hospital, to Aldeburgh, Ipswich hospital, Felixstowe and more. We are currently striking to keep our jobs in the NHS.

But we never wanted to be on strike, we're committed to providing quality services to patients. We won't be able to do that if East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust sells off our jobs.

Our employer wants to bring in a private company to run our service on the cheap. It would have a duty to its shareholders, not our patients.

Private contractors' main aim is to make a profit. They'll come after staff wages, sick pay and holidays, and also cut corners on cleaning, food standards and anything else they're responsible for.

This is not about pay for us, we're already barely paid above the minimum wage. We're proud to be the ones who hold your hand when you've got no-one else, offer you a cup of tea in your darkest moments or have a chat to keep your spirits up. But the trust thinks this makes us "too compassionate" and that we'd be better separated out and unable to work as a team with our clinical colleagues.

So, we are sorry for the disruption but ESNEFT has left us with no choice — we have to do this: for our futures, for the future of our service and for you, our patients.

We know we are not just cleaners, chefs or porters. We are the backbone to every hospital. We are the cogs that keep the machine running. And we have to fight for the future of our jobs and for our NHS to stay in public hands not be sold off to the lowest bidder.

Thank you for your patience and support.

Striking facilities workers in UNISON

.....
General secretary Christina McAnea Regional secretary Tim Roberts