

Dunfermline Press

£1 Thursday, May 10, 2018

And West of Fife Advertiser

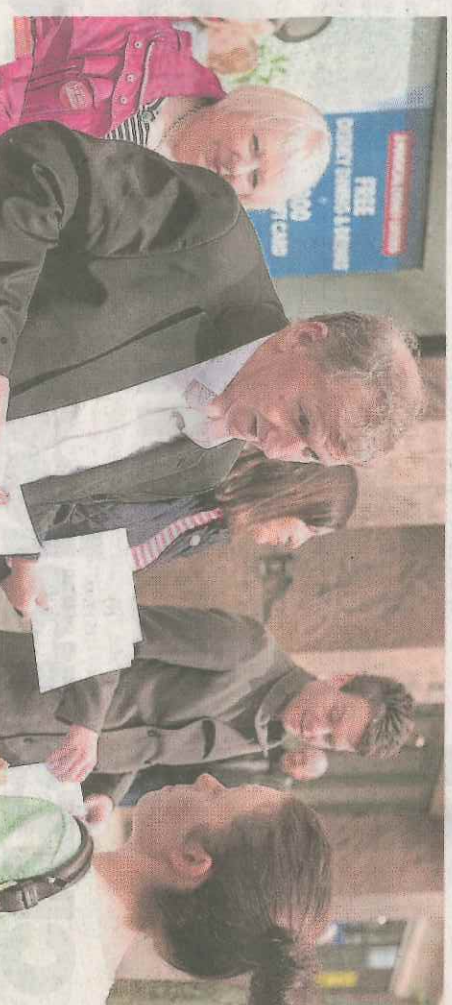
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I FEAR QMH SERVICES WILL MOVE TO VICTORIA

JOIN the fight to keep vital services in Queen Margaret Hospital.

That's the rallying cry ahead of a public meeting on Monday about the out of hours service at Dunfermline, with fears about moves to "centralise everything" in Kirkcaldy.

In a rare show of cross-party unity, Labour MSP Alex Rowley and SNP MSP Shirley-Anne Somerville will host the meeting where members of the public will have the chance to grill representatives from the Fife Health and Social Care Partnership.



Overnight out of hours services in Dunfermline have stopped for three months due to staff shortages and, with echoes of the bitter fight against Right for Fife and the downgrading of QMH in 2002, there are concerns about more departments moving to the Victoria Hospital.

A petition has been started and Mr Rowley said: "We should be jointly saying we will resist any centralisation of services."

"The partnership will talk about difficulties in terms of recruiting GPs and recruiting specialist staff, and the government have to get their act together on that but, at a local level, we need to be united to keep these services local."

■ Alex Rowley campaigning to save Queen Margaret Hospital's Out of Hour Services in Dunfermline on Saturday. There's a public meeting on Monday. Pic: Jim Payne.

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