

CF/CSO/01 – Closing hospitals: an evaluation of knowledge use and public involvement in disinvestment proposals

Proposals to close hospitals often meet major public opposition. Why do health service managers and publics hold such divergent views, what evidence do they draw on in their arguments, and how is disagreement resolved? This project will investigate these questions in Scotland. I will compare all proposed closures since 1999 by looking at documents and media coverage. I will then research three proposed closures in more detail by interviewing the public, staff and politicians involved, and observing consultation activities (such as public meetings) where these are still happening.

The outcome of this research will be a project to bring together members of the public, managers and politicians to work towards accessible guidance for all those involved in decision-making around hospital closures. By learning about this issue and producing practical guidance, it is hoped that this research can make the decision-making process (whatever the outcome) less difficult, expensive and divisive.