

National Health Action Party – Fact Sheet

Leading the fight to save the NHS for future generations

Who are the NHA Party?

- Launched 2012 by doctors, health care workers and ordinary people who believed a new political party is needed to defend the NHS and its values
- Has practical plans to improve the NHS and calls for a healthy society to be at the heart of policy-making
- Opposes the Coalition Government's Health & Social Care Act which undermines the founding principles of the NHS: medical treatment should be delivered free to everyone, based on need, not the ability to pay
- Disappointed that Labour failed to stand up for the NHS and has colluded in the increasing privatisation of the NHS
- Leaders: Dr Richard Taylor, former independent MP and Dr Clive Peedell, cancer specialist
- Calling for a new politics with a parliament that is responsive to the people, not to party whips

What are our priorities?

We accept that the NHS is not perfect and needs to improve but this cannot be done by putting profits

ahead of patients, and increasingly commercialising and privatising the NHS.

We have an Action Plan to restore and improve the NHS. Amongst our plans, we will:

- Halt hospital and A&E closures unless there is clear clinical evidence and local support for closure
- Abolish prescription charges, which are effectively an unfair tax on people with chronic long term conditions
- Reverse budget cuts and ensure adequate bed numbers and staffing levels
- Abolish the prohibitively costly competitive market within the NHS
- Scrap the Public Finance Initiative (PFI)
- Make the NHS much more accountable by ensuring patients and staff can voice complaints and whistle blow when they identify problems in the NHS
- Exempt the NHS from the damaging EU-US Trade deal
- Ensure that government policies, including economic strategy, housing and environment, are designed with the public's health an absolute priority.

Challenging the lies told about the NHS

Lie 1: Britain can no longer afford the NHS

Perhaps the biggest lie of all. Britain today is a much richer nation than it was in 1948 when we set up the NHS. Healthcare for all, free at the point of need and provided by the state, was a great civilising and equalising idea in 1948 and it remains so today.

The NHS is not unaffordable or unsustainable, it is under-funded. This government has wasted billions on a senseless reorganisation that no one wanted or voted for. Billions of pounds which should be spent on front line care are being wasted on the internal market, PFI debts, firing and rehiring staff, and using private agencies for staff and ambulances.

Lie 2: 'Efficiency savings' are necessary

'Efficiency savings' is the term used by the government and their supporters when what they actually mean is cuts in funding. Cuts do not make for better, more efficient care in the NHS. Far from it. Cuts make for crises in the NHS.

The Government's £20 billion 'efficiency savings' in the NHS are worsening patient care as hospitals, GP surgeries and other services become under-staffed and under strain – and face the prospect of being sold off to private companies where profit not care is the number one priority. This government doesn't seem to understand that making cuts merely creates more problems. It doesn't understand that investing in health produces a more productive, healthy workforce which contributes to the economy.

Lie 3: Immigration caused the NHS crisis

Simply not so. The truth is in 2012 a tiny fraction of the NHS budget was lost to so-called 'health tourists'. Out of the £109 billion NHS budget, £33 million was spent on 'health tourists' and £21 million was recovered from them, leaving just 0.01% lost from the overall NHS budget. The government is using immigration as a smokescreen for its own failings.

For more about the NHA party visit www.nhap.org

NHA
patients not profits