

The Abolition Of The NHS and Introduction Of Insurance Based Healthcare In England

Report by Chris Ingram, Web editor, Unionsafety

In 1948 the then Labour Government began a service which was to become the best national healthcare service in the entire world. So began the duty of the UK Government to provide a National Health Service, along with a constitution owned by the people of the UK; and with the responsibility to ensure it continued with each subsequent Government.

That ended in 2012!

Previous Labour Government's from 1997 onwards introduced the Oliver Letwin/John Redwood NHS policy paper of 1988 entitled 'The Greatest Enterprise' on how to dismantle the NHS; into Government policy!

The basic necessity was to free up all hospitals from Government spending directives, and give them total control over their own budgets – via NHS Foundation Hospital Trusts. Without this, privatisation was not going to be easily and quietly introduced. Indeed, some say it would have been almost impossible to do so by stealth.

The final nail in the coffin of the NHS was hammered in via new legislation:

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 removed the duty of the Government to provide any form of healthcare services by removing it from the duties of the Secretary of State For Health!

Since then, the abolition of the skeleton which remained – in name only under the NHS logo – has continued to be slowly demolished; a process which will end on its completion with new legislation in 2022.

First, via the HSC Act 2012, came:

* the removal of the duty on the Government to provide any form of healthcare,

* the legal instruction to put out ALL healthcare services provided by the former NHS to private tender

- * the NHS logo to be used to hide the actual private service provider's name from the public
- * the introduction of the 'any suitable provider' clause which basically allowed literally anyone with money to provide what was formally provided by the NHS.

- * various reforms to the funding and provision of healthcare in England, aimed at facilitating full privatisation by stealth of the NHS.

Central to all of this was private healthcare company consultants from the USA and insurance based groups, along with financial right-wing think tanks such as McKinsey & Company, Health Care of America, United Health, Kaiser Permanente, The Kings Fund etc.

Together they and Tory right-wing politicians and private healthcare companies in the UK, meet in secret to plan the introduction of US-style healthcare into England.

Alan Milburn ex-Labour Health Secretary and other Labour MPs have personal interests in private healthcare companies (26 at last count), which may well explain the lack of true opposition from Kier Starmer and co.

The Naylor Report advocating the sell-off of NHS hospitals, property and land to private investment companies and US insurance companies was introduced as policy by the Theresa May Government, and continues to this day!

The fact that Healthcare is a devolved responsibility saved the rest of the UK (so far) from the abolition of the NHS in Wales, N.Ireland and Scotland.

This year, the remnants of the NHS in England will be finally buried with the transformation plans of the Tory Government with an 80 seat majority, to take over the skeleton of NHS services and hospitals transforming them into 42 autonomous and privately run Integrated Care Systems (ICS).

Along with the abolition of NHS terms and conditions, nurses and clinical staff will be expected to work more 'flexibly' and even between hospitals and clinics in differing locations! Their contracts taken over by one of the 42 ICS which will replace national terms and conditions.

Each ICS will have full financial autonomy and the power to decide which healthcare services they will provide and those they will not.

Indeed, so far 31 procedures formerly provided by the NHS have been deemed not cost effective, and no longer provided by the NHS service providers (private companies running healthcare services including GP practices and ambulance services in England).

They will also be mandated to make a profit and be able to keep that profit to themselves and their shareholders. It is inevitable that existing limited companies, already formed by NHS Foundation Trusts, will eventually become Plcs along with the bodies running the 42 ICS, and floated on the stock exchange as in the USA.

Furthermore, in the 2022 legislation, the Secretary of State will be named as the person in Government to oversee the new healthcare services in England, making him personally in charge of the newly and fully privatised healthcare service – the Integrated Care Services Organisation for want of a better term.

The National Health Service it certainly is NOT with budgets, spending, and provision of healthcare services all being devolved to the 42 privately owned and run Integrated Care Systems (ICS).

In 2022, the NHS will be completely abolished in England!

NEXT – the introduction of private medical insurance and a two tier healthcare system will be introduced under the guise of ‘personal choice’ and the cutting of healthcare procedures from none paid for healthcare provision will continue unabated.

Sources: UK Government and NHS England websites, The Guardian, The Independent, The Financial Times, Government consultation documents, The Mirror, The Mail on Line, The I newspaper website, the US Government website, 999 Emergency Call for the NHS, Defend Our NHS, Keep Our NHS Public, NHS Support Federation, National Pensioners Convention, Daily Telegraph, Unionsafety news pages, Unionsafety E-Library.