

## **Tough on the causes of NHS privatisation.**

Conference notes:

NHS England's (NHSE) 'integrated care' now allows private providers to commission NHS services, potentially basing public interest decisions on private profit.

NHSE's Long-Term Plan (extending its 5-year plan) brought this about. Far from 'fixing' the Health & Social Care Act, it's furthering the transformation of a universal, comprehensive, accountable NHS into an Americanised 'integrated' commercial model.

Conferences 2016-18 having opposed the 5-year plan, STPs and ACOs/ICPs, Conference now explicitly opposes the Long-Term Plan, all these forming part of said corporatisation process.

Conference considers the corporate revolving door to NHSE policymakers a principal driver of these developments. Examples: the author of the GP Forward View who is CEO of an online GP company, the NHSE national director who declared NHSE's restructuring an "enormous opportunity" for the private sector, later moving to Google Deepmind Health, and the NHS Digital director promoting an online GP company she was preparing to join.

Conference applauds Jon Trickett MP's commitment, citing the latter example, that "Labour will shut" the "revolving door between government and big-business", calling for radical, detailed policy to achieve and enforce this.

Labour must lead by example, eliminating the collusive corruption of direct and indirect corporate influence on public service policymaking, campaigning for and challenging all parties to follow suit.

Conference notes this is essential to meeting its 2017/18 commitment to restoring our NHS "as per the NHS Bill", which also commits the next Labour government to promptly subsuming NHSE within the Department of Health.

## Notes and references.

*“we must [...] confront [...] the four greatest and interconnected threats facing our common humanity. First, the growing concentration of unaccountable wealth and power in the hands of a tiny corporate elite, a system many call neoliberalism”*

Jeremy Corbyn, UN headquarters, Geneva, 2017.

### ‘Integrated’ private providers commissioning services on the public’s behalf:

“Private healthcare firms have just been offered a substantial say in deciding how billions of pounds of NHS mental health money is spent.” <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/ournhs/the-latest-multi-billion-pound-move-in-nhs-privatisation-is-the-endgame-in-sight/>

The Long-Term Plan, extending the 5-year plan and consequences for service provision:  
<https://publicmatters.org.uk/2019/01/25/rinse-and-repeat-the-sequel-to-the-5-year-forward-view/>

Labour conference 2017 commits party to opposing NHSE’s policy plan and restoring the NHS “as per the NHS Bill”:

<https://keepournhspublic.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/2017.09.26-LP-Health-motion-debate.pdf>

Conference 2018 reiterates this sovereign decision (video):

[https://video.twimg.com/ext\\_tw\\_video/1044915061725237248/pu/vid/1290x720/63585i1f8JiZzAOi.mp4](https://video.twimg.com/ext_tw_video/1044915061725237248/pu/vid/1290x720/63585i1f8JiZzAOi.mp4)

### Revolving door

Author of GP Forward View and CEO of Hurley Group conflicts of interest:

[-https://askmygp.uk/9975-2/](https://askmygp.uk/9975-2/)

[-http://www.managementinpractice.com/editors-pick/round-story-behind-resignation-nhs-englands-director-primary-care](http://www.managementinpractice.com/editors-pick/round-story-behind-resignation-nhs-englands-director-primary-care)

“GP Survival” demands his resignation: <http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/partners-/practice-business/in-full-gp-survivals-call-for-dr-arvind-madans-resignation/20037181.article><sup>1</sup>

NHS Digital director:

“Outgoing NHS digital chief wrote ‘puff piece’ for future employer in ‘jaw-droppingly inappropriate’ behaviour.” <http://www.nationalhealthexecutive.com/Robot-News/outgoing-nhs-digital-chief-wrote-puff-piece-for-future-employer-in-jaw-droppingly-inappropriate-behaviour>

NHSE National Director Michael MacDonnell:

“STPs offer private sector ‘enormous opportunity’” <https://www.hsj.co.uk/technology-and-innovation/stps-offer-private-sector-enormous-opportunity/7006369.article>

“NHS England national director leaving to join Google AI firm” (DeepMind Health)

<https://www.hsj.co.uk/commissioning/nhs-england-national-director-leaving-to-join-google-ai-firm/7023418.article>

From former Vice President of [Cerner](#) health technology corporation, via NHSE Deputy CEO, to consultant to Accenture Digital, a transnational with digital healthcare interests:

<https://www.hsj.co.uk/workforce/matthew-swindells-to-leave-nhs-england-for-private-sector-work/7025015.article>

NHS England’s director of new care models, Samantha Jones, now CEO of the UK arm of US transnational healthcare corporation Centene, which has been part of setting up the Nottingham

Accountable Care Organisation/ICP. <https://www.hsj.co.uk/policy-and-regulation/former-nhs-england-and-hospital-boss-to-lead-integration-firm/7023938.article>

(Alan Milburn, who was behind New Labour's long-term espousal of this healthcare model, is also on the board of Centene's 51% owned Spanish interest, Ribera Salud, which ran an Accountable Care Organisation there: <https://www.healthcarebusinessinternational.com/ribera-salud-appoints-ex-uk-healthcare-minister-alan-milburn/> -paywall. Centene's UK arm is located [within the offices of the King's Fund](#), a proponent of Accountable Care).

Jon Trickett reacts to the circumstances of the NHS Digital director's defection:

*"Too often public servants move to firms attempting to profit in the areas they once worked in. Everyone needs a living, but the public are right to be concerned by the revolving door between government & big-business. Labour will shut it."*

[https://twitter.com/jon\\_trickett/status/1083802164097630208](https://twitter.com/jon_trickett/status/1083802164097630208)

Collusive corruption:

University of Liverpool study of public attitudes shows strong opposition to collusive corruption between government and business.

<https://www.crimeandjustice.org.uk/sites/crimeandjustice.org.uk/files/Redefining%20corruption%20briefing%2C%20May%202016.pdf>

Direct and indirect corporate influence on public service policymaking, key examples:

Spinwatch research (although published Mail on Sunday!) on McKinsey's role in writing the Health and Social Care Act 2012: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2099940/NHS-health-reforms-Extent-McKinsey-Companys-role-Andrew-Lansleys-proposals.html>

NHS England policies reiterate healthcare transnationals' blueprint:

<https://www.sochealth.co.uk/2017/05/25/truth-stps-simon-stevens-imposed-reorganisation-designed-transnational-capitalism-englands-nhs-stewart-player/>

"direct and indirect corporate influence"

The revolving door is not limited to government officials, for instance it operates throughout the Establishment thinktanks, whether [King's Fund](#) or [IPPR](#). A remarkable groupthink unites from the latter "progressive" thinktank to the openly free-marketeer TaxPayer's Alliance<sup>ii</sup> in echoing the discourse of the likes of McKinsey & Co.

FAQs:

**What about underfunding?**

Permanent defunding is the explicit basis<sup>iii</sup> for the NHS' current shrinkage, towards an ultimately far more expensive system<sup>iv</sup>. It is a means to an end.

While defunding helps selectively roll back given pillars of the public-service NHS, such as local GP surgeries, generous incentives also help sell off public land and buildings, furthering the process.

At stake is not a neutral financial figure, but the political will for a public service NHS which Labour has shown by voting for the NHS (Reinstatement) Bill, versus this government's commitment to growing a healthcare market at the NHS' expense.

**What about NHS England 'CEO' Simon Stevens, ex Vice President of United Health?**

Stevens' trajectory is emblematic of the NHS revolving door, from ministerial level downwards. However, he is far from alone in a systemic problem that must be dealt with as such.

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<sup>i</sup> “*Dr Madan, while working as a partner in the Hurley Group, one of the largest practices in England, has demonstrated a clear conflict of interest in expressing his ambivalence to support smaller practices and may stand to benefit personally by pursuing an agenda of small practice merger and consolidation for the Hurley Group.*” [emphasis added.] This is a part of NHS England’s agenda explicitly opposed by Labour’s 2017 conference.

<sup>ii</sup> “*The IPPR was quick to distance itself from the [TaxPayers's Alliance], saying it has ‘twisted’ its research and its proposals for the NHS were ‘very different’. In truth, there’s not much between the IPPR’s press release last year and the recent TPA one.*” Tamasin Cave, “[Hancock’s tech drive: the cross-wired evidence and who’s behind it?](#)” *The Lowdown* May 2019

<sup>iii</sup> See 5 Year Forward View, page?

<sup>iv</sup> McKinsey & Co, emblematic of mainstream thinking as a key proponent of the NHS’s current corporatisation, holds that £100bn for a public service NHS is “unsustainable”, whereas £200bn for the healthcare market its own NHS restructuring is bringing about is a significant opportunity for growth/profit.