

NHS at 72 reverse the devastation of privatisation

The Workers Party of Britain supports the NHS anniversary weekend of events which is being held by NHS campaigning groups across the country.

The founding principles of the 1948 NHS charter – to promote health and provide universal and high-quality medical care, free at the point of use, from the cradle to the grave – remains the deeply-held desire of the overwhelming majority of the people of Britain.

From the 1980s onward – under Thatcher, Major, Blair, Brown and Cameron, May and Johnson – we have seen a steady and inexorable undermining of the NHS through marketisation and privatisation. Even in the face of Covid-19, all the government can muster are platitudes; rounds of clapping and insincere declarations of love.



Dr Ranjeet Brar of the Workers Party says; “The Health and Social Care Act 2012 is now widely perceived for what it really is: the final outright privatisation of the NHS, which makes it compulsory to open up all areas of health provision to private companies.

“Anyone who attempts to paint this attack on the NHS as a purely Tory or ConDem phenomenon need only look as far as the last Labour government’s record on the NHS to see that they are equally complicit. NHS funding doubled between 1999 (£49bn) and 2009 (£110bn), but much of the increase went directly into the private coffers of drug companies (£20bn a year), private contractors for cleaning, catering and maintenance contracts (formerly supplied by NHS workers), health technology companies and building contractors.”

Is more funding the solution?

The Workers Party of Britain campaigns for a properly funded National Health Service, but funding alone, when it is channelled into the hands of the privateers will do nothing to improve the lot of the patients or overstretched NHS workers. That is why we support calls to repeal the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and put forward the following demands:

1. Oppose all privatisation of services – ‘core’ or ‘peripheral’ – and campaign for the renationalisation of all privatised aspects of NHS provision, working towards a health service that provides nationally-funded, universal and comprehensive care, free at the point of use, that fulfils its original charter.
2. Oppose both the private provision of health care, and the internal market in health care within the NHS.
3. Scrap all PFI debt.

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