

Dear [Elected representative]

4.8.17

Keep Our NHS Public has produced ***NHS Crisis: Into the Red Zone***, a briefing note for MPs, councillors and health campaigners in England on the crisis facing the NHS in the period immediately following the June 2017 election.

Written by Dr John Lister, it is available as a very informative and fully referenced text version. We attach an executive summary introducing the serious issues facing the NHS, which have escalated since the general election. ***We feel there has never been a more urgent moment for elected representatives to be well informed about the NHS and to stand up and be counted in its defence.***

Many have misunderstood NHS England's **Sustainability and Transformation Plans**. They may see only the positive messages and be blinded by the impossibility of achieving them whilst the NHS experiences unprecedented austerity. They may then not see the dangers and loss of democracy in installing US-style **accountable care systems**, which are attempting to bypass local authority scrutiny and to overrule individual CCGs.

In case you are not aware we explain the dangers inherent in the **Government's adoption of the Naylor Review**, and intentions to sell off £5bn of NHS estate – gone for ever to pay today's bills: Theresa May committed to this terrible policy during the election

You may also not have had chance to evaluate the insidious **Capped Expenditure Process**. NHS England and NHS Improvement have imposed this on 14 STP areas, by secretive directives exposed just before polling day. This is serious – with threats of special measures imposed on trusts of CCGs if they overspend in order to protect the health of their population, faced with unacceptable reduction in required rate of funding.

Please read the attached executive summary. You can access the full report (text and references) at <http://bit.ly/2vooXgv>

The references are active links. Let us know if you would like to discuss this with us.

Please help put pressure on the Government for an urgent change of policy towards the NHS and social care, and an end to further damaging cuts, closures and mergers contained within the 44 STPs. Please lobby for a halt the Capped Expenditure Process and a rejection of Naylor-inspired sell-off of NHS estates.

We are imploring councillors to use LA democratic processes, backed by their MPs to slow and halt the STPs and the moves to cash-capped accountable care systems driving through cuts.

Lastly, we comment on how the **Commonwealth Fund** findings (*Mirror Mirror* 2017) – leapt on by NHS England and Jeremy Hunt as proof of the success of the NHS in the UK – need to be interpreted with caution, with major caveats including the need to see it as a largely qualitative comparative survey based on data already two years old or more. The NHS has suffered greatly since 2014/15. It must not be used by the Government as a screen to hide the desperate situation facing the NHS.

The NHS urgently needs your help. Please read our briefing and join us to take positive steps.

Yours sincerely

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