Our NHS is facing more threats than ever the two candidates to be the next Prime Minister propose. Even further to the right to appease Tory Party members.

Jeremy Hunt, cynically distorting his real wretched record as Health Secretary, may now be claiming to have ‘saved’ the NHS – but he is also echoing Boris Johnson’s threat of what would be a disastrous no-deal Brexit and promising a massive £15 billion increase in military spending – at the expense of health and welfare budgets.

So the prospect is whichever man wins, the NHS will lose out heavily. At the beginning of June first the US Ambassador and then Donald Trump himself insisted that the NHS – and of course its budget of £120 billion a year – had to be ‘on the table’ – and of course its budget of £120 billion a year – had to be ‘on the table’ in any trade negotiations.

Some Tory leadership hopefuls predictably hastened to distance themselves from any toxic association with Trump’s demands – but Johnson, the front runner and Trump’s favoured candidate, not only stayed silent, but later told a closed hustings meeting that the NHS – is already open to private companies to bid for contracts – from the US or anywhere else, and has been since New Labour’s controversial ‘reforms’ which opened up a competitive ‘market’ in clinical care from 2000. It was exposed even further by the 2012 Health & Social Care Act which was pushed through by David Cameron’s government with Lib Dem backing.

But up to now the main American health corporations have shown little interest in bidding for under-funded contracts to deliver patient care. Nor are the major US insurers significantly engaged in Britain, even as gaps appear in the NHS. It’s not American-owned hospitals setting up to offer “self-pay” operations to NHS patients denied routine treatment in Warrington, but a British NHS Foundation Trust (see p7).

Minimal foothold

American hospital corporations HCA and Tenet have only a minimal foothold in England, and no large scale commitment to expand in Britain’s small private hospital sector. HCA’s new Birmingham hospital is being built alongside a major NHS Foundation Trust Hospital – to ensure it can cash in on NHS-employed consultants, NHS-trained nurses and NHS-funded elective patients.

Far from wanting to take over the whole of the NHS, US companies like UnitedHealth subsidiary Optum have focused on focused, profitable opportunities, selling technology, IT expertise and “back office” systems. The main potential money spinner for the US is pharmaceuticals, especially if Trump could strip away existing regulations and NICE guidelines, and force British prices up to the inflated levels they are able to charge in the US market.

Successive British governments have shown they are happy to accept all of these, except perhaps the drug price hikes, which would push up public spending.

It has been British governments that opened up the NHS to EU competition laws, leaving our health system more exposed to private intervention than any other EU country.

France and Germany have protected their much bigger health care against competition laws and have little if any US penetration.

It’s been possible for the Canadian government, the USA’s next door neighbours, to reject any US involvement in their health care system, even after signing the NAFTA free trade deal.

There are no US hospital corporations or insurers involved in Canadian health care: Canadian drug prices are so much lower US pensioners organise trips across the border to buy cheaper medicines. It’s not Trump or the US who have so far privatised sections of our NHS but British governments, and predominantly British companies such as Virgin, along with South African, Australian and other private firms.

To make sure we keep our NHS public, we need a government committed to doing just that – and not one led by either of the right wing hopefuls lining up to replace Mrs May.
NHS faces “perpetual winter” — NHS Providers

A few days after midsummer NHS Providers, a London-based think tank, published a new report into the state of the NHS, warning that the nation’s health service was suffering from a “permanent” crisis. This comes after previous warnings by NHS leaders that the service was operating at the “coalface”.

The report, entitled “Fighting The Coalface: Staff Health And Wellbeing”, builds on a 2016 analysis that found the NHS was in a “winter of discontent”. It is the second report on the subject in a year, and comes amid rising protests over the government’s plans to scrap the NHS and recent outages across the health service.

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Implementation Plan outlines a batch of Long Term “priorities”

John Lister

In this month’s NHS Long Term Plan, a new implementation framework document has been published, which could perhaps come as a surprise to anyone who has been part of the NHS in recent years. The document explicitly states that the NHS Long Term Plan was intended to make a fundamental change in how the NHS invests its capital, but this change has already been effectively put in the back burner as the narrative of change has shifted.

The new document makes clear that some of its long list of priorities are not identified as “critical foundations” – change which all members must agree upon. Indeed, the list of priorities is further divided across “health systems,” “health services,” and “community services,” which may mean the NHS has now concluded that there are new types of priorities that are not yet aligned with the public narrative of change.

NHS Long Term Plan

The document refers to a “well-balanced medium-term capital plan” that would be determined by a detailed capital planning process. However, this process has already been abandoned as NHS England’s Interim Workforce Plan was published in March, before the medium-term capital plan was even set.

The Interim Workforce Plan

The plan is set to be replaced with a new Long Term Plan, which will be published in the spring of 2019. The document refers to the new plan as “a roadmap for the future,” but it is unclear whether this roadmap will ever be realised.

The National Health Service

The NHS has been under constant pressure to deliver long-term plans, but it is clear that this pressure is no longer coming from the public. Instead, it is coming from within the NHS itself, as the organisation seeks to establish new priorities and new frameworks for change.

The Long Term Plan

The Long Term Plan is intended to provide a framework for the future of the NHS, but it is clear that this framework is not yet ready to be implemented. The NHS has been working on the plan for several years, but it is still not clear what the plan will actually do. The plan is likely to be revised and updated in the future, but it is unclear whether the NHS will ever be able to deliver a long-term plan that is truly effective.
**Fighting privatisation**

**New round of strikes to challenge privatisation**

**In Birmingham, about 40 NHS porters, lab assistants and maintenance assistants in wards on the old University Hospital site of the Heartlands Health Foundation Trust, who are employed by a nominated subsidiary (WOS) staged a two day strike on 24-26 June (pictured right). The strike was called to avoid a planned 48-hour walkout by hospital porters, housekeepers and domestic assistants in support of the Trust members against the decision to outsource their jobs and cut their pay by 12%.**

The Trust plans to transfer 500 NHS housekeeping, catering and maintenance jobs to a newly set up subsidiary company – securing a 70% pay cut for WOS members after the Trust unveiled new proposals last year amid fears over “backdoor privatisation” – voted to take strike action in July 2018.

The Lowdown newspaper has revealed that the trust is backtracking on its promise to allow them to form or participate in trade unions, 18 months after a series of strikes and battles followed by a full-scale court case. The Trust now says it will “not seek legal advice at the public expense on this issue.” (2.1)

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Keep Our NHS Public www.keepournhspublic.org

Keep NHS out of trade deals!

The message to Trump and the UK government is clear: don’t sell out the NHS. Don’t sell it off at any price. We need to stand shoulder to shoulder with the millions of people across the UK and the world who want to defend the NHS.

This is your chance to be part of the biggest campaign to defend the NHS yet. Join the International Day of Action for the NHS on 17 June.

To find out how you can get involved, please email info@saveournhs.org or call 020 7405 5400.

Almost all of the speakers reiterated Trump’s NHS ‘solution’ – selling off the NHS. Trump clearly does not get the NHS. He doesn’t know anything about it.

We demand our government does not sell off the NHS. We demand the NHS is safe and secure for the future.

Stop Trump’s plans for the NHS and get the NHS out of trade deals.

Help us to defeat this latest attempt to damage our NHS. We are calling on all public sector workers across the country to join the fight to defend the NHS for everyone. Let’s fight against all forms of asset-stripping and privatisation of our NHS!

Support floods in for our Trump campaign 500,000+ say “Keep Trump’s hands off our NHS”

The latest news on the maternity crisis is causing floods of people to sign our petition. The lastest letter to the Campaign can only try to hold back the wave of public anger and support for our NHS!

The real reason Donald Trump is after the NHS is so that he can make huge profits. He has already spoken about making huge profits from the NHS. Do you really think that’s what we want for our NHS?

People have been calling. They have been emailing. They have been posting online. They have been tweeting. They have been sending in letters. And the message is the same: Keep our NHS!

Hello there, I am a student at the University of Kent and I am a part of the campaign to keep our NHS public. I am writing to you to let you know about the current state of the NHS and what needs to be done.

We have been fighting for years to keep our NHS public and we are not going to give up without a fight.

Thank you for your time and your support.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Spin doctor brazens it out after NW London closure plan is axed

The story of FPI... up to date

Social care

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We ALL need the NHS...

The NHS is under sustained threat. Budgets for the NHS have been virtually frozen, while the population has increased and demand for services has increased, successive governments have chipped away and fragmented the NHS to pave the way for piecemeal privatisation, encouraging private firms to cherry pick the services they expect to be profitable.

The fight to stop further privatisation, along with damaging cuts and closures has made access much harder for many older and vulnerable patients. A POWERFUL ALLIANCE IS NEEDED.

That’s why Health Campaigns Together was launched in 2015 as a way to enable local campaigns, health unions and the wider trade union movement to work together and reach out to the wider public.

And that’s what we’ve done.

We are a non-party but very political campaign that stresses the need to focus our efforts, combining strong local campaigns with largescale national events and protests.

The aim is to build a movement strong enough to put pressure on politicians from all parties to force them to speak up in support of the services we all need.

In alliance with the trade union movement and Peoples Assembly, Health Campaigns Together has delivered several major national demonstrations and with our message, helped influence the 2017 election.

We have also organised a series of conferences, supported unions fighting “wholly owned companies” and the outsourcing of NHS staff, helped with a campaign on social care, worked with Patients Not Passports protests,– and on many other issues helped win local victories and worked to avenge defeats.

HCT has a quarterly newspaper, a busy website, and is currently campaigning with health unions to build a Mental Health Crisis Summit on September 28 and a conference to ‘Make Our NHS Safe For All’ after that. All decisions are taken by quarterly meetings of affiliates.

Health Campaigns Together is a coalition of organisations, backed by the main health unions UNISON, Unite and GMB, by other national unions, and by well over 100 affiliated organisations including branches and regions of unions, local Trades Councils and Labour Parties.

The more affiliates we have, the wider we can reach to gather and share information, the more effective we can be in defending our NHS.

Get your union branch, local campaign or Labour Party to join us!

...but now it needs us to defend it

Unions, campaigners, join us!

HEALTH CAMPAIGNS TOGETHER is an alliance of organisations. We ask organisations that want to support us to make a financial contribution to facilitate the future development of joint campaigning.

WE WELCOME SUPPORT FROM:

- TRADE UNION organisations – whether they representing workers in or outside the NHS – at national, regional or local level
- local and national NHS CAMPAIGNS opposing cuts, privatisation and PFI
- pressure groups defending specific services and the NHS,
- pensioners’ organisations
- political parties – national, regional or local

The guideline scale of annual contributions we are seeking is:

- £500 for a national trade union,
- £300 for a smaller national, or regional trade union organisation
- £50 minimum from other supporting organisations.

NB If any of these amounts is an obstacle to supporting Health Campaigns Together, please contact us to discuss.

We have produced Health Campaigns Together newspaper QUARTERLY since January 2016.

It is still FREE ONLINE, but to sustain print publication we need to charge for bundles of the printed newspaper:

Cost PER ISSUE (inc post & packing)

| 50 copies | £25 (£15 + £10 P&P) |
| 100 copies | £35 (£20 + £15 P&P) |

200 copies £40
500 copies £70 (£40 + £30 P&P)


Bundles of papers will only be sent on receipt of payment, and a full postal address. If possible please order online.