On January 4 Prime Minister Theresa May joined Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt in issuing a hollow apology for the state of the NHS.

Even as she spoke news was emerging of an 81-year old Essex woman who died waiting for an ambulance which took 4 hours to arrive, and two deaths of older patients waiting to be seen in an overcrowded A&E in the West Midlands.

None of this stopped May on January 7 telling Andrew Marr and viewers how ‘proud’ she was of the government’s record on the NHS: in other words the apology was meaningless.

There’s no point in apologising when the problem comes from deliberate government policy, which – despite repeated warnings from NHS Providers, the NHS Confederation, the health unions and almost every NHS professional body – has not changed since George Osborne imposed the funding freeze in 2010.

We have now had almost eight brutal years of frozen funding that have reduced spending on health and the numbers of hospital beds to the lowest of any equivalent country – reducing front line health services in many areas to “third world” conditions.

In those 8 years cost pressures have increased by 4% each year and the population has grown by 4 million – leaving our NHS starved of funding, with inadequate investment in staff and resources.

8,000 front line beds and 20% of mental health beds have closed – while 8 years of below inflation pay settlements have left 100,000 vacant posts for nurses, health professionals and doctors in all parts of the NHS, increasing the pressure on the dedicated staff who remain. Even now, austerity cuts are still government policy.

As a result on December 31 more than half the acute hospitals had at least 95% of their beds full, and 8 out of 10 hospitals had beds over 90% full. It’s why ambulances queue for hours seeking to hand over seriously ill patients, why corridors and other spaces are now routinely used as desperate, dangerous last resort areas for patients to wait for beds, and it’s why mental health patients have to travel hundreds of miles to find a bed.

NHS England has ordered a halt to elective surgery until at least the end of January. Waiting lists and waiting times are increasing fast.

Meanwhile cuts and privatisation have reduced social care to chaos, and billions are being wasted on a costly and dysfunctional competitive ‘market’ which hands NHS contracts to profit-hungry companies.

We don’t want apologies, we want changes: that’s why, with People’s Assembly, we are calling a day of action on February 3 to press for:

- End the winter crisis with a cash injection to restore the NHS budget
- Commit to increased funding each year, at least 3% above inflation.
- End the cap on NHS pay
- No cuts, closures, or privatisation

See inside, page 2

Avoidable Crisis!

Fix It Now!

Last March the winter crisis helped us build the biggest ever demo for the NHS. This year the crisis is even worse: hence our Emergency demo on February 3
16,900
Number of people left waiting in ambulances outside A&E between Christmas Day and New Year’s Eve

2018: a year for celebration – and protest

Underfunding, cuts & privatisation have left the NHS on its knees in its 70th anniversary year

London demonstration, local and regional events, called by Health Campaigns Together and People’s Assembly, and supported by UNISON and Unite. For details see

www.healthcampaignstogether.org.uk/2018/02/03/day-of-action

NHS in crisis: Fix it now! Join the national day of action Saturday February 3

It’s getting crowded at the top!

Numbers of senior NHS managers leapfrogged above 10,000 in January 2017 for the first time. By January 2018 the number of senior NHS managers increased to 11,500 – an increase of 15%

TUC demonstration: A new deal for working people

July 7: London

Almost 70% of Britons believe there should be a cap on social care costs

May 12: London

My own research found that on Christmas Eve a third of children’s care homes in England were understaffed by 15% or more

END

For more details follow our website www.healthcampaignstogether.org.uk

"I've long been a believer in devolution. It’s time to hand over power to the regions."
— Jeremy Corbyn

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Massive failure in child mental health

Despite a constant flow of rhetoric, funding and employment promises from government about ‘quality of care’ and ‘improving access’ to support, the reality is that key children’s services – from assessment to discharge, from hospital beds to community – are under threat across the country. For the last two years, children’s mental health has been a priority, yet the outcome is the most dangerous I’ve ever seen”.

The newspaper quotes from the Royal College of Psychiatrists (Royal College of Psychiatrists), which found that almost one in ten of the children it surveyed reported that almost one in ten GP’s had refused to refer them for treatment to the NHS, which might make it too hard for children to get the care they need.

The newly reappointed CCG clinical commissioning chief for mental health, Dr Richard Marlow, said: “The reality is that the NHS is struggling to meet the needs of young people who have the most serious and complex needs.”

The report highlighted the lack of investment in the mental health services for children and young people, with children from the most deprived areas receiving the worst care. The report also pointed out that the services available for children with mental health problems are not accessible, with some having to wait for years before getting the help they need.

The report also highlighted the lack of coordination between different services, with children being referred to multiple services, often without a clear understanding of what they need and who can help. This leads to delays in care, with children being left without help for months, and sometimes years.

The report called for urgent action to improve the mental health services for children and young people, with investment in dedicated services, better coordination between different services, and more training for doctors and nurses.

The report also recommended that the government should consider increasing the funding for mental health services, and that more effort should be made to ensure that children have access to the care they need.

The report also highlighted the need for more research into the causes of mental health problems in children, and the need for more support for families and carers of children with mental health problems.

The report concluded that the mental health services for children and young people are not good enough, and that urgent action is needed to improve the situation. The report called for the government to take action, and for the mental health services to do more to ensure that children have access to the care they need.

Leicester hospitals cancel ops

Leicester hospitals have cancelled operations to make room for patients on the night before Christmas, due to a surge in demand.

The hospitals have announced that they will not carry out any elective surgery on Christmas Eve, and that all non-emergency procedures will be suspended.

The move comes after the Leicester Royal Infirmary declared an Operating Pressures Escalation 4 (OPE 4) alert earlier in the week, which means that the hospitals are facing a significant pressure on their services.

The hospitals said that they had taken the decision to cancel elective procedures because they were not able to deal with the high number of patients arriving at their emergency departments on Christmas Eve.

The hospitals added that they were working with other hospitals in the region to ensure that they were able to cope with the demand.

Mike Fieldhouse, Secretary – Save Southend NHS

Mike Fieldhouse. Secretary – Save Southend NHS (STP) campaign group says that the STP’s financial self-assessment is far from reassuring.

“Save Southend NHS (STP) campaign group says that the STP’s financial self-assessment is far from reassuring. It is simply stating the obvious and not producing any new information. The group is concerned that the STP is not meeting the needs of the public and that it is not transparent.”

But how do you get a whole wagon train moving? By making sure that every last person on board is pulling in the same direction. The STP has already shown that it is willing to listen to the public and that it is committed to improving the services that it provides.

The STP has been working closely with the local community to ensure that it is able to provide the best possible care for its patients. It has also been working with other organisations to ensure that it is able to provide the best possible care for its patients.

The STP has made a number of changes in recent months, including a new strategy for improving the services that it provides. It has also been working with other organisations to ensure that it is able to provide the best possible care for its patients.

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New bodies: not accountable, and don't care

Forcing ACO debate into the open

A majority to push through new legislation

ACOs are largely an American concept, with examples of "Accountable Care Organizations" (ACOs) in the US, Singapore, and a number of other countries. The very mention of the US, however, is enough to make many in the Health Service shudder, as the experience in the US is that ACOs do not work, but are increasingly putting pressure on the NHS for similar models of care, the results of which could be " SPEED, the Singapore Model of Care (SMC) has been developed by the Singapore Ministry of Health. The SMC model is based on the premise that "All care is integrated, all care is accountable, and all care is measurable." The SMC model has been shown to improve health outcomes, reduce hospital admissions, and reduce healthcare costs. The SMC model has been adopted by other countries, including the UK, to improve healthcare delivery. The SMC model includes the following key components:

- Integrated care: All care providers, including hospitals, primary care, and community services, are aligned to provide integrated care.
- Accountable care: All care providers are held accountable for the outcomes of care.
- Measurable outcomes: Outcomes are measured and reported to ensure accountability.

The SMC model is in line with the NHS's ambition to improve healthcare delivery and reduce healthcare costs. It is hoped that the SMC model will be adopted by other countries to improve healthcare delivery.
The Departments have not yet established who is responsible for the lack of NHS funds, but the underlying message is clear: the NHS must be underfunded and privatise the NHS. The NHS has been “On the brink” since the time of the original NHS legislation, but now it is considered a real threat. The NHS is in crisis, and the government is powerless to do anything about it.
NHS in crisis: fix it now! Join the national action day Saturday 3 February

Sneaky Privatisation Vehicles

**Health Campaigns Together Conference Nov 4 Unions and campaigning partners**

John Lister

Our Wigan Alliance conference on November 4 bought over 400 campaigners, including from all the main NHS unions and the TUC. Our speakers included film director Ken Loach, UCU General Secretary Mary Bousted, UNISON Wales Council Chair Diwandar Nagari, Community Hospital in South Tynehead, front line health workers, Frances O’Grady from Shadow Secretary General (AWS).

There was also an address from a new ‘nationalism in the age of the corporate state’.

UNISON’s Head of Health Sara Goransdotter and her colleagues and campaigns to work together co-drafted a鼻子 and nationally to Health Campaigns Together ‘Plan to defend the NHS’.

Our union pension funds can improve services for the people we use them for and at the same time.

The conference theme was: ‘We want to convince our government that – in pretty desperate economic terms, but even more so in an unsustainable working structure, the staffing levels are inadequate, and people are put off from working there.

The Conservative right wing has been uniquely based on need. The NHS was co-founded by Dr. William Beveridge in 1948, but the NHS is a co-operative movement.

While the 1948 NHS was by no means perfect, it represented a fundamental, radical and historic break, on a level that is not sufficiently appreciated today.

It is a two-tier system which is crucial in the fight to stop the privatization and if we want public support to pay the full cost of their care.

A corporate landscape is a threat to their livelihood. They are put off from working there.

The West Yorkshire Association of Unison is firmly opposed to the new rights that are being imposed on the West Yorkshire Association of Unison.

The company is to be wound up, as a union that represents all sectors of the NHS.

A trade union is rightly proud of its tradition of planning, but where is the funding for community health services?

As a union that represents all sectors of the NHS, we need to keep fighting for taxpayers. It is crucial that the public sector does not become purely on the balance sheet.

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Affiliate now for 2018

If you like what we’re saying and support what we are doing for fight for our NHS, why not get your organisation to affiliate to Health Campaigns Together. Affiliation is administered by calendar year, so any organisation that affiliated prior to our November 4 conference in 2017 needs to sign up again to remain affiliated.

We are very proud of the number and diversity of organisations that have joined out alliance – among them the two main national trade unions active in the NHS UNISON and Unite, and trade unions defending other public services like the National Education Union and the Fire Brigades Union both of which affiliated to us at the close of last year.

We urge local branches of these unions to get involved as well, by affiliating directly and subscribing to the newspaper.

We also welcome other trade unions, national and local campaigns, parties committed to defence of the NHS, pensioners groups, student unions – anyone who wants to be part of the fight.

Our website has details of affiliation, making clear that while we expect trade union branches and similar bodies to pay at least £50 (and a number have made much more generous additional donations), we also welcome smaller groups, and we can be flexible on the level of affiliation fee.

As an alliance of organisations we are not open for individuals to join – but we welcome support, subscriptions to the newspaper, and donations from individuals. Details at https://healthcampaignstogether.com/joinus.

AGM April 14, London

Your chance to shape policy and elect officers

Our AGM last year was attended by over 50 affiliated organisations. It heard reports of the work that had been done and established a system for electing officers and an action committee, and shaping policy for the year ahead.

The AGM is only open to affiliated organisations – so to get involved make sure you are signed up in good time!

Unions, campaigners, join us!

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 preferably online.

Please consider a donation to help build our events

In 2017 we put Health Campaigns Together on the map and the NHS high on the political agenda with our massive March 4 demonstration through London, organised with People’s Assembly.

We managed to cover our costs and raise some vital funding to help resource our work around the general election and party conferences, and subsidise long distance travel to our November 4 conference in London.

But 2018 is a new year with new demands upon us as campaigners, and we are urging all the organisations and individuals who support the work we are doing to make a donation, as generous as you can.

Your donation will support the publicity and campaigning for the February 3 Day of Action around the country and of course for the major NHS Birthday event we are planning in London on July 7.

Please put the dates in your diary – and send us whatever you can afford: details at www.healthcampaignstogether.com/donate.php.

Our New Year bargain offer: 4 for price of 3!

For THIS MONTH ONLY, we are offering any sized bundle of all FOUR quarterly issues in 2018 for the price of THREE, paid in advance. But you have to hurry! Offer must close January 31.


Contact us at healthcampaignstogether@gmail.com. www.healthcampaignstogether.com