

Candidate 3 evidence

Solving the NHS Crisis

Introduction

The NHS has been struggling a lot over the last few years with money, resources and staff. The main reason for the crisis is due to the NHS being too good for its own good. As people are beginning to live longer. Another reason is due to the rise in obesity levels and other sorts of lifestyle related illnesses. The government have tried to solve the problem by giving the NHS more money, but it has yet to have solved the problem. The BMA (British Medical Association) which is an insider pressure group believes there has to be a cross party solution between Labour and the Conservatives to solve the problem. Although we may think our health service is in crisis but compared with other countries we are one of the best in the world. Even though we are yet to find a solution there are many that could work to help the NHS out of its crisis.

Solution 1: Increase the availability/affordability of private healthcare/insurance

For:

One way that could solve the problem would be to increase the amount of affordable private health care/insurance. This would help massively as it would shorten waiting times and make the amounts of patients much easier to handle. Also people that ~~are~~ have quite bad

health would be able to afford it making it easier for them to go to the hospital if they usually go regularly. It would also help in the way that the "worried well" the middle class ~~would~~ who take up most of hospital's time would be able to afford it cutting out a vast amount of patients.

Against:

Private health care/insurance is not the answer as it would exclude the working class who wouldn't be able to afford it even though the poorer you are the more likely you are to have ill health. For example there are some places in Glasgow where the average life expectancy is around 60 years old and also in Glasgow lifestyle related illnesses have a much higher rate than the rest of the UK. This shows that private health care may help the more well off people increasing the affordability won't help the people that suffer from ill health the most. ~~Also private health care~~

Solution 2: Stop funding lifestyle related illnesses on the NHS

For:

Lifestyle related illnesses take up a very large percentage of the NHS's funding and it's not going to get any better. It's going to get worse. With 8 out of 10 men set to be obese by 2020 and 7 out of 10 women the cost is ~~the~~ only going to rise. 5% of the NHS's money is spent on obesity related/caused illnesses that's £6.5 billion per year. Also smoking and drinking take up a massive amount

of the budget also. If we stopped funding these lifestyle related illnesses that would be a huge amount of money that NHS could spend in other ways helping them alot.

Against: ~~Although~~ Although it may free up alot of money for the NHS to use elsewhere it would be a terrible thing to do. As lifestyle related illnesses are much more common ^{amongst} poorer people, they may not be able to pay for the treatment. Which may mean that the rate of death from lifestyle related illnesses would rise massively as some people cant afford it. It could also put some families into severe poverty. Or leave them suffering with no help whatsoever.

Solution 3: Increase taxes to fund the NHS

For: Increasing taxes to fund the NHS would help alot. The majority of the UK said they would pay more tax to help the NHS. This would make the NHS's budget much ~~big~~ bigger than it is today allowing them to be able to afford the necessities. This would completely sort out the lack of funding problem going on at the moment.

Against: Increasing taxes will not fully fix the problem as the budget may increase so will the things they need to spend it on. As an quickly aging population with the predicted increase by 2044 showing that 25% of the country will be over the age of 65 years old. And

also the very large increase of obesity over the next few years shows that the NHS will have to have even more money in the future. Which will most likely mean the extra money from taxes will not solve the problem.

Conclusion

In conclusion I believe that the best solution to the NHS crisis is to stop funding lifestyle related illnesses on the NHS. As smoking, alcohol and obesity linked illnesses cost the NHS so much of their budget it would be very wise to stop funding them. It would free up a lot of money for the NHS and maybe even motivate people to change their lifestyle for the better. Making the country overall healthier and possibly reduce the problem completely.

Research Methods

I found my research method of news ~~papers~~ ^{papers} very reliable especially from the Guardian ~~as it was up to date~~ for many reasons. One being that it was up to date on the topic. Another being that it was filled with stats which I could use to help my arguments. And that it gave a lot of information from both sides of the arguments.

Another research method that I used was not as reliable, blogs. Blogs were very

unreliable as they ~~was~~ are just people stating
their opinions. They gave no stats or useful
information and were kind of hard to
understand. But one way they were reliable
was that they were up to date and
are involved within the NHS.

Source Sheet

Source A

URL: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-42572110>
Title: 10 charts that show why the NHS is in trouble
Author: Nick Triggle
Date: 24/05/18
Accessed: 18/02/19

Source B

URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/08/generational-divide-uk-split-by-age-over-tax-rises-for-public-services>
Title: 'Generational divide': UK split by age over tax rises for public services
Author: Denis Campbell
Date: 08/12/18
Accessed: 18/02/19

Source C

URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/sep/11/the-guardian-view-on-the-nhs-crisis-private-treatment-is-not-the-answer>
Title: The Guardian view on the NHS crisis: private treatment is not the answer
Author: NHS
Date: 11/09/17
Accessed: 20/02/19

Source D

URL: <https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/news/Oxford-debate-NHS>
Title: Can the NHS afford to treat self-inflicted illnesses
Author: University of Oxford
Date: 22/06/09
Accessed: 20/02/19

Source E

URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/24/nhs-smokers-obese-fair-treatment-saving-money>
Title: The NHS must treat smokers and the obese fairly
Author: Clare Marx
Date: 24/04/16
Accessed: 21/02/19

Source F

URL: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-44516123>
Title: Tax rise need to help pay for £20bn NHS boost, says PM
Author: Nick Triggle
Date: 18/06/18
Accessed: 21/02/19

Source G

URL: <https://www.bma.org.uk/news/2018/february/nhs-crisis-needs-all-party-solutio>

Title: NHS crisis needs cross party solution

Author: Peter Blackburn

Date: 28/02/18

Accessed: 21/02/19

