

The challenges that the NHS faces

-BBC School Report.

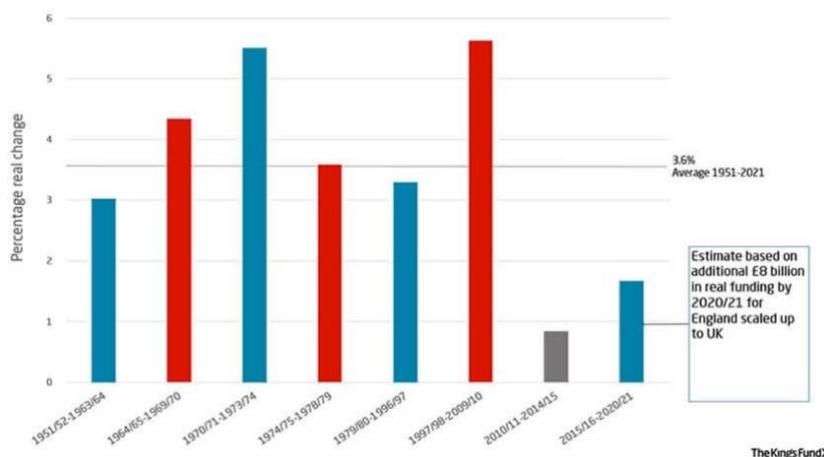
The NHS was founded in 1948 by the Labour leader Aneurin Bevan. It was created with the ambition of bringing free healthcare and treatments to all. Now, 70 years later, it has begun to struggle as it faces challenges such as an aging population, not enough staff, treating diseases linked to lifestyle and rising costs due to more expensive treatments and therapies. This has meant that the running costs of the NHS are escalating.

Statistics:

For 2015/2016, the overall NHS budget was £116.4 billion and in 2017/18 the conservative government plan to spend £124.7 billion. Although this is an increase of roughly £8 billion, figures show that between 1998/99 and 2010/11 the average spending increase was 6.4% and since 2010/11 the average increase was 1.4% per year. This has resulted in the number of NHS beds falling by half in 30 years, pay rises for staff have been frozen for many staff and treatments have become like the postcode lottery, what you are able to receive depends on where you live.

In the last week of 2017 bed occupancy across the UK averaged at 91.2%, with virtually every hospital exceeding the accepted 85%. And as the NHS spending on agency staff increased by £400 million in 2015-16, many NHS staff and patients are left asking: when will the government respond and confront the pressures of the NHS?

Figure 1: Real annual average changes in UK NHS spending by governing party, 1951-2020



How could they improve the running of the NHS?

“Jeremy Hunt is wrong to say the NHS is working, underfunding and cuts, privatising services, the public sector pay gap, the new contract on junior doctors and removal of the student nurses’ bursary- are a damaging set of policy decisions.”- Professor Stephen Hawking. We agree with his statement that these policies are damaging towards the NHS and that if Jeremy Hunt tried to improve the running of the NHS the policies stated would need to be changed or improved. If the new contract for junior doctors and the removal of student nurses’ bursaries are changed then we believe that the profession would become more accurate and would encourage more people to become part of the NHS. However, we also believe there should be better social care and safe places for the elderly to recover from operations, we believe this because the elderly would take more time to recover from operations and would still need monitoring longer than those who are of a younger age group.

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Bibliography:

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/>