

Health Creation saves lives

It must become 'business as usual' for sustainability of the NHS and social care

Whichever political party, or parties, take the reins of Government following a 2024 General Election, public spending will continue to be hugely constrained. Putting more funding into the same NHS and Social Care model is not an option. In any case, the current model has done little to reduce avoidable excess illness and health inequalities that is driving demand for health and social care services and holding back the UK's economy.

A health creating model is the only way forward, for now and future generations

Health Creation demands that everyone has somewhere to live, something to do, someone to love. It addresses the causes of the causes of avoidable excess illness and health inequalities and improves the public's health. It offers a coherent, solutions-focused approach to change from the ground up and supports successful devolution. Putting Health Creation into practice across the NHS, Local Authorities and Integrated Care Systems will improve everyone's lives and is an essential part of genuine levelling up.

Health Creation is the process through which individuals and communities gain a sense of purpose, hope, coherence, mastery and control over their own lives and immediate environment; when this happens their health and wellbeing are enhanced.

1

Adopt

Health Creation as a key goal across government

2

Develop

accountability mechanisms to make a reality of legal and constitutional obligations

3

Invest

differently to make the shift to Health Creation

4

Ensure

everyone can secure an adequate income to live with dignity

5

Stop

using 'hostile environments' and policies that exclude people to reduce demand for services and resources

6

End

the extraction of provider profit on in-patient Mental Health, Children's Care and Older People's Care

7

Deliver

a stronger framework for addressing quality of housing and management in the private rented sector

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Three of our asks of a new Government relate to making Health Creation business as usual; the other four asks relate to removing barriers to Health Creation.

1 Adopt Health Creation as a key goal across government

Pass a Community Power Act. Each department to embed Health Creation within all policies and programmes. Establish a cross-government mechanism to bring national-level synergy to cross-cutting policies.

2 Develop accountability mechanisms to make a reality of legal and constitutional obligations

So that system partners are held to account for: delivering against our human social rights to health and a dignified life, NHS principles to the public, communities and patients and to work across organisational boundaries and the Care Act 2014 and how social care is properly funded and paid for.

3 Invest differently to make the shift to Health Creation

Invest in relationship-building through 'protected connecting time'. Invest in community-led organisations and evidenced community strengthening activity. Invest in multiple stakeholder national and local movements for Health Creation.

4 Ensure everyone can secure an adequate income to live with dignity

Through a combination of uplifting Local Housing Allowance, increasing Universal Credit, addressing prevalence, conditions and remuneration of zero-hours contracts and requiring payment of a living wage as minimum.

5 Stop using 'hostile environments' and policies that exclude people to reduce demand for services and resources

This is divisive, discriminatory, unsafe and harmful to health. Instead, create more inclusive and diverse routes into paid employment and advancement into meaningful occupations.

6 End the extraction of provider profit on in-patient Mental Health, Children's Care and Older People's Care

Require all private providers to state their approach to investment, innovation, workforce and quality and only spend public resources on those that meet a high benchmark. Reinvest profit into models that support Health Creation.

7 Deliver a stronger framework for addressing quality of housing and management in the private rented sector

Increase investment and capacity for local authorities to adopt 'Good Landlords' schemes and proactively enforce against poor housing quality. Establish a national licensing scheme for all privately rented homes.