

Full Council – 10 July 2023

1st Labour Group Motion

Celebrating 75 years of the NHS in Brent

This council notes:

- 5 July 2023 marked 75 years of the National Health Service - it is the beating heart of Britain and the Labour Party's proudest achievement.
- Treating over a million people a day in England, the NHS touches all our lives. It is also the biggest employer in Europe and the world's largest employer of highly skilled professionals, with over 1.3m members of staff from over 200 different nationalities.
- When it was founded by Nye Bevan in 1948, the NHS was the first universal health system to be available to all, founded on the simple principle of care based on people's need, not their ability to pay.
- Today, nine in 10 people agree that healthcare should be free of charge, more than four in five agree that care should be available to everyone, and that the NHS makes them most proud to be British.
- The NHS has delivered huge medical advances, including the world's first liver, heart and lung transplant in 1987, pioneering new treatments, such as bionic eyes and, in more recent times, the world's first rapid whole genome sequencing service for seriously ill babies and children.
- This year also marks another very important 75th anniversary – the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush in Britain with more than 800 passengers from the Caribbean, ready to embark on their new lives. The Windrush Generation helped to build the National Health Services and we stand on the shoulders of their legacy.
- More recently the NHS and social care organisations have also benefitted from EU and other overseas staff.
- Throughout Covid-19, doctors, nurses, health and social care workers and NHS staff put their lives at risk to protect us all.

This council further notes:

- Our NHS colleagues are integral to the work of Brent Council.
- Since its creation, NHS spending has increased by an average of 3.7 per cent per year in real terms. But from 2010/11 to 2018/19, NHS funding growth slowed to 1.4 per cent per year. Spiralling inflation has reduced the value of the NHS budget, with NHS Confederation analysis showing that the NHS is facing real terms cut in funding of between £4 billion and £9.4 billion.
- Over the last ten years, the foundations of the NHS have been eroded through outsourcing to private companies and insufficient investment in both staff and infrastructure. Pay for health practitioners is now less than it was in 2010, 40 per cent of doctors in the NHS are looking to leave the NHS for work abroad; and of Boris Johnson's promised 40 new hospitals, less than a quarter are yet to gain planning permission.
- There are currently more patients waiting for treatment than ever in the history of the NHS. Furthermore, every month, tens of thousands of patients are spending entire days waiting in A&E with hospitals overwhelmed with patients who are fit to leave or wouldn't need to be there in the first place if they could access healthcare earlier.
- Ahead of the NHS's 75th birthday, a report by the NHS Assembly has set out the growing consensus that the NHS should now focus on three key areas for long term development: better preventing ill health, personalising care and delivering more co-ordinated care closer to home.
- The disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) communities highlighted the deep health inequalities faced by so many of our residents, as well as the inequalities faced by BAME staff in the NHS, which the NHS also needs to urgently address.

This Council believes:

- The infrastructure of the NHS at both the community and national level requires wholesale renewal to meet the demands of an ageing population.
- Brent Council has a strong track record of working with the NHS for the benefit of all our residents, to ensure a borough where we can all feel safe, secure, happy and healthy. In partnership with the NHS we have:
 - Launched 8 Family Wellbeing Centers, bringing together health, nursing, and parental support for children.
 - Held Prostate Cancer Awareness events in Stonebridge and Harlesden.

- Won the Nursing Times Award for the Public Health Nursing category and been shortlisted for the unique initiative of the oral health mobile bus, which looked to improve education for parents across Brent about healthy eating and dental health.
- Despite these achievements, there is so much more that could be done to improve the NHS in Brent – and that only with a Labour Government will the necessary change be delivered.
- That the time is now, to seize the historic moment of the NHS's 75th anniversary to unite behind a shared vision of its next and best era.

This Council resolves to:

- (1) Request the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Adult Social Care write to the Shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, outlining support for the Labour Party plan for the biggest expansions of doctor and health practitioner numbers in the history of the NHS, committing to:
 - Doubling the number of medical school places to 15,000 a year
 - Doubling the number of district nurses qualifying each year
 - Training 5,000 new health visitors a year
 - Creating 10,000 more nursing and midwifery clinical placements each year
 - A long-term workforce plan for the NHS, with independent workforce projections, new career paths into the NHS, and new types of health and care professionals.
 - Supporting the expansion by reintroducing the 45p additional rate of income tax paid by those earning more than £150,000 a year.
- (2) Work with the North West London Integrated Care System to promote measures that maximise opportunities at a local level to improve life for local residents by:
 - Promoting prevention and reducing the number of people with long term conditions.
 - Promoting the best deployment of resources to address identified need.
 - Work with other statutory partners but also co-produce solutions with our communities and Voluntary Sector that will improve the lives of our most deprived communities in Brent.
 - Working with our diverse communities to ensure equality of experience in accessing health care services.

Councillor Sandra Kabir
Queensbury Ward