

How resilient is the NHS?

Commissioning, community, compassion

Three after-work talks and discussions about the future of the NHS.

Thursdays July 4th, 11th, 18th. 6-8pm with reception to follow

Free, but please register at [EVENTBRITE >>>>>>>>>](#)

The NHS is suffering interesting times: headlines - rightly or wrongly - proclaim system-wide crises of compassion, along with production-line collapses in A&E, and the imminent privatization of the NHS. These allegations shock us, born as most of us were into the NHS, and brought up with it we expected it would one day be the compassionate place where we would die. But will the NHS as we knew it die first?

Nigel Lawson once called the NHS “the nearest thing the English have to a religion”, sarcastically perhaps, but his words ring true because the NHS is deeply rooted in timeless values of social solidarity and public benevolence, in being part of a humanitarian whole where profit would never be put before people. In a free-market world is the NHS a sacred relic of less selfish times, or just a relic of a bygone age which should go the way of all dinosaurs?

For the NHS to survive in the wake of its latest and greatest re-organisation, it will have to set a course between these two extremes. Much will depend on how the new clinical commissioning groups, wellbeing boards and local authority public health directors pull together so that a viable locally organized, patient-centred healthcare system can emerge. The challenge right now though is how to get there from where we are; not simply how to create the compassionate NHS so beloved of Whitehall rhetoric, but to enable whole new compassionate communities to emerge and engage with the NHS they co-own.

Thursday July 4th Chaired by Prof Michael Dixon

The new clinical commissioners – can they commission caring and compassionate services?

Professor David Colin-Thome (former National Clinical Director for Primary Care)
Paul Corrigan (former PM’s special health advisor).

Thursday July 11th Chaired by Prof Michael Dixon

Care and Compassion – have they gone, and would knowing the neuroscience help bring them back?

Paquita de Zulueta (GP, London Deanery, Human Values in Healthcare)
Prof Aidan Halligan (Director of Education, UCLH NHS Trust)
Dr Tamara Russell (Mindfulness Centre of Excellence) to be confirmed.

Thursday July 18th Chaired by Prof Michael Dixon

Building caring and compassionate communities: what works?

Dr Brian Fisher (GP and Centre for Welfare Reform)
Hazel Stuteley (Programme Director Connecting Communities, Peninsula Medical School).

Venues.

4th July University of Westminster 115 New Cavendish St W1 (Near Post Office Tower)

11th and 18th July University of Westminster Marylebone Rd W1 (Opposite Mme Tussauds)