



**Campaign  
For All  
Ireland  
National  
Health  
Service**

# No Going Back

The Case for An All Ireland  
National Health Service

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020

# Covid Crisis Casts a Light...

- Early Stages of Pandemic saw hospitals across island on verge of being overwhelmed
- This was not just the result of an exceptional set of circumstances!
- Covid-19 was the perfect storm, that highlighted long running deficiencies in healthcare systems.
- HSE and NHS now operate in state of “permanent crisis” – shortages of beds, longer wait times, understaffing.
- In South, potential for crisis so great that state was forced to take control of private hospital capacity.
- Some private capacity used in North too.

Since then – very little done to increase capacity in long term sense.

Northern Ireland

## Northern Ireland health service 'at point of collapse' as waiting lists hit record high

Warning as new figures reveal critical state of health service



Members of the Unison trade union began strike action over unsafe staffing levels and the lack of pay parity with NHS workers across the rest of the UK.

By Lisa Smyth

November 28 2019 10:00 PM

# A Crisis In Care

- Nursing homes were devastated in the most acute phase of the pandemic
- ~60% of Covid-19 deaths in South, 20% of all residents infected, 50% of care homes not compliant with infection control protocol.
- Speaks to a deeper crisis in care...
- In South, system majority is mostly private – less nursing staff, a reliance on agencies and problems procuring PPE.
- In North, system mixed but greater percentage public – but public homes run “efficiently” meaning they mirror problems of private.
- Key takeaway: Conflict between market efficiencies and our health



# Healthcare Workers Lead The Way

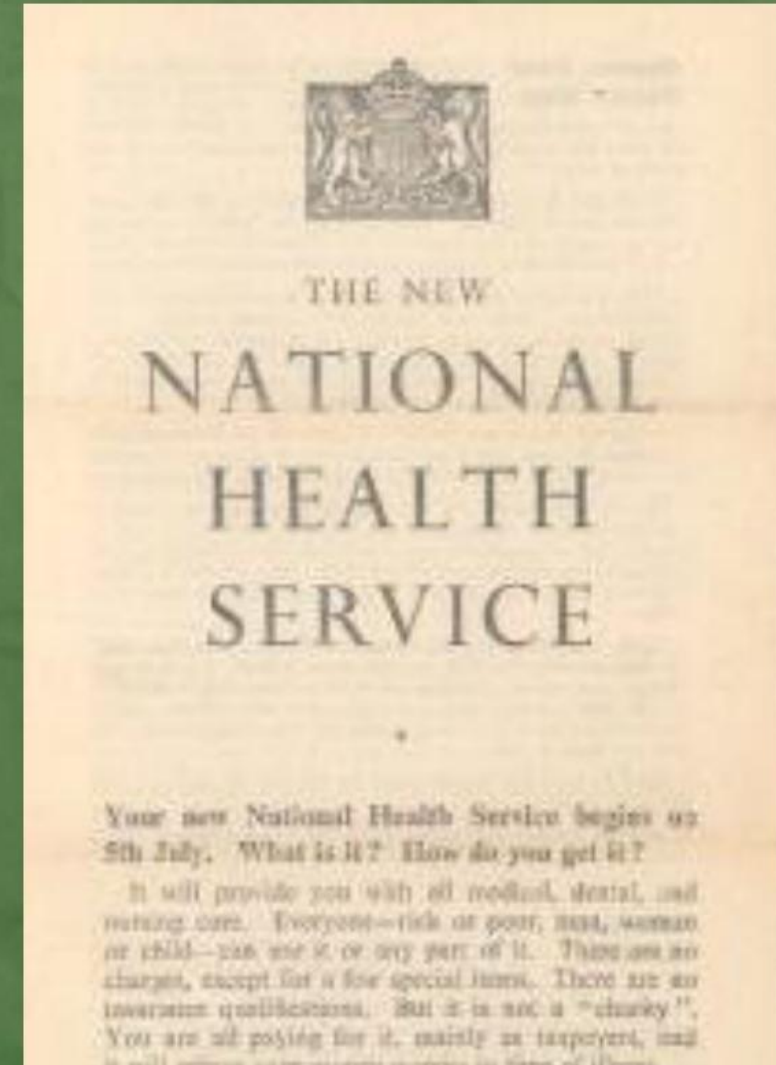
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- Historic actions by healthcare workers North and South last year – direct demands for better pay, conditions and staffing.
- But they were fighting for something more fundamental too – a turning of the tide and a system that values care instead of rationing it.
- Faced with resurgence of Covid cases, record-breaking waiting lists and the Winter – will we listen to them or stick to the status quo?
- Healthcare worker and public health demands best met in a well-funded public system.



# Lessons from the NHS

- The foundation of the NHS after the Second World War was a revolution half made but still shines as an example of how we should treat healthcare and how change can be won.
- “Free at the point of access from the cradle to the grave and funded by general taxation”
- Strong emphasis placed on “prevention” and public health – contrasts with today’s approach where you avail of healthcare when you are sick.
- Originally locally managed and planned, some democracy in administration.



# What We Stand For

- In this exceptional moment we believe change is not only possible, but necessary.
- Health is a social right and a prerequisite for a decent society – our health depends on the health of others, we have a shared interest in a system that guarantees free access to healthcare for all.
- We believe the way forward is a well-funded, democratically managed, secular healthcare system, integrated across the island and committed to treating people based on medical need, rather than ability to pay.
- The Campaign For An All Ireland NHS is a broad alliance of healthcare workers, trade unions, political parties, NGOs, academics and public figures.
- We aim to mobilise workers, health campaigners and communities across the island to improve access to healthcare and to win people to the idea of an All Ireland National Health Service.

**NO GOING BACK!**



# Support The Campaign

- Sign our open letter and share it with those you know who might be interested.
- Attend and promote our events.
- Join a local campaign group, or set one up in your own area.
- Get in touch about our Campaign Organising Committee

Follow us on Social Media:



@CampaignAINHS

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**ALL IRELAND  
NHS NOW!**