

Funding the Future

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I liked this [from Roy Lilley this morning](#), in a discussion on why he thinks Silly Boy (as he calls Wes Streeting) will get his NHS reforms wrong:

Is there an effective way of looking at the NHS' predicament and coming up with a simple fix?

Yes... it's called the Aristotle school of management!

He laid the foundations for 'structure, inquiry and argument' by asking key-questions. Later Thomas Aquinas divided questions into categories and they have evolved into the 5 W's.

Who, why, what, when and where. For the NHS it means...

- * *Who is sick*
- * *Why are they sick*
- * *What can we do to fix them up*
- * *When can we do it*
- * *Where can we do it*

It's all we need.

Who, older people and children are the heavy users of the NHS... 60% of all of us, pitch up with lifestyle related problems. About half of cancers are discovered in A&E.

Why, because older people are unable to take care of themselves and there aren't enough people to help them. Some families struggle to bring-up their kids without support. The rest of us eat, drink and do all the wrong things and don't do the right things and we don't scan enough people, early enough.

What, to do? Invest in social care, reintroduce Sure Start. Take-on the people making junk-food by taxing the junk and not taxing the rest. Focus on early diagnostics.

When, can we do it? Whenever we want to. Now would be good.

Where, [we have thousands of GP premises, 1,257 hospitals of various sorts, 500 community hospitals and 6322 Neighbourhood Health Centres](#). We just

need to maintain and repair what we've got, make sure they have modern kit and in particular, look after the people working in them to make it all productive.

In about 150 words, this looks to me, like a plan that would pass the effectiveness test.

Can Roy be accused of being simplistic? Of course, he can: an international consultant would charge many millions to come up with these ideas.

Can he also be accused of being effective? I think so: what he says is likely to work.

And can he be accused of clear thinking? Most definitely. That is something Silly Boy will never achieve.

As a result, the NHS will be subject to a great deal of unnecessary reform.