

Don't trust Wes Streeting's NHS consultation

Published: January 12, 2026, 9:17 pm

Do I have to talk about Wes Streeting this morning? It seems that I do because the government's resident smug boy is out and about talking about his plans for the NHS, and as usual, just about everything he says is nonsense.

Firstly, he's starting a 'consultation' on how to reform the NHS. It is insulting to call it anything of the sort, because we know that anything that contradicts the findings that Streeting wants it to reach will be ignored.

Secondly, he is talking about establishing a 'neighbourhood health service' where all GPs, district nurses, care workers, physiotherapists, health visitors and mental health specialists will be located under the same roof. In other words, he is trying to establish the so-called Darzi centres that were a disaster under New Labour and were wisely and very quickly abandoned. The worst thing about them was they were not in the neighbourhood at all, but had to be located away from where people lived to find suitable premises. They are, however, ripe for privatisation, and that suits Wes Streeting's plans very well indeed.

There is also another problem with such a concentration of services in neighbourhoods. You can be quite sure that the richest neighbourhoods will get the best concentration of services. Not only are these centres designed to be privatisation ready, but they are also designed to undermine the national in National Health Service.

Meanwhile, creating those wholly unnecessary new hubs will be very costly, with no gain to healthcare and a lot of cost to those who will not be able to get to them, who will - of course - be the most vulnerable in society.

Third, Streeting is talking about creating digital NHS passports for people, with all data stored in one place. The security risks are high, but Wes won't worry about that. The whole purpose of this is to sell all that data to life science companies who can then sell the NHS all the drugs that the person needs to be on to supposedly prevent diseases.

There are two issues. First, there is the massive risk of over-medicalisation of

healthcare at enormous cost to us all. That cost will be physical; about one in eight hospital admissions in those over retirement age is because they have drug-related conflicts in their over-medication.

The other reason is that over-medication does not prevent disease. Over-medication is a massively expensive way to treat symptoms and not causes.

The cause of our massive decline in medical well-being over the last 40 years or so is the enormous rise in the consumption of ultra-processed food that results in the massive excess intake of sugar in our diets, and most especially fructose. It is, in that case, really easy to tackle the cause of our ill-health. Simply stop the production of these foods that are designed to encourage excess food consumption by creating sugar addiction, which they are incredibly successful at doing.

Obesity would go away.

Diabetes would cease to be anything like the problem it is.

Heart disease rates would decline significantly.

Rates of people suffering from dementia would almost certainly fall.

All are excess sugar-related. And we don't need drugs to prevent these things from happening; we need to eliminate excess sugar from diets.

But that would hit corporate profits and Wes Streeting won't do that, which is precisely why his NHS consultation is a sham and his stated intention of improving health outcomes is bogus. He intends nothing of the sort.