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TASK 2

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THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

The NHS was founded after world war II in 1948 named the national service act, at first it was introduced to beat inequality and give access to all, however according to Bailey Foster in the key themes in health and social care (2023), the black report states that there was an increase between the gap even if it was meant for all and this was due to the differences in the way of life between the two groups rather than the costs of public health. Moreover, some thinks that the push to establish the NHS came from the Beveridge report (1942) a report purely made to battle against the five giants; idleness, ignorance, disease, squalor and want. This report created much disruption between the politicians and the public and it then allowed Clement Atlee's Labour Government to establish free national health service. Over the years the national health service has carried on growing into one of the biggest healthcare systems in the world and, in this essay, I will discuss its status within recent years and in the past.

Before the NHS was funded, GPs, dentists, nurses and opticians were their own sectors however since the 5th of July 1948 they were all brought together under one system which allowed most of their services to be free. This was an amazing turn of events for the United Kingdome however most of the struggles are the same struggles we are facing today such as funding, staff, building and fixing infrastructures so that the hospitals are not overcrowded. On the other hand, ever since the NHS was established new technology and research have been made and have served those who couldn't afford it before, with vaccinations and surgeries that could've been life or death situations. In the 1980s the healthcare system was facing major financial tackles that forced it into creating an internal market through the NHS and a community care (act 1990), this allowed the public to be buyers and the organization to be providers which minimized waiting times amongst the hospitals.

Till today the NHS remains free of cost to the public and it helps millions of lives every single day, unlike other countries such as America, anyone is free to walk in any hospital and seek help. It provides different sectors that were not prioritized before such as mental health and specialist care. Moreover, there are many flaws within the NHS today as there is a lack of funding, the staff is overworked and the waiting times for the patients keep increasing; in 2024 the waiting list fell for the fourth month in a row from 6.28 million patients waiting to 6.24 million, which emphasises that more staff and infrastructure is a must in order to improve the National Health system. With a constant rise in demand, the government has increased the NHS funding towards infrastructures, staff and refurbishments however some argue that it does not cover the costs.

The National Healthcare Service has been around and free for the public since 1948, It had many developments over the years such as medical research social changes and also had many struggles with reforms such as the internal market (national archive 2023). The issues haven't improved to a significant scale over the years as there is a greater increase of demand, however, the NHS is key to the UK showing how important a free healthcare system is rather than promoting inequality amongst communities and not giving access to all the public whiteout putting them in bad debt or at any risks due to their financial restrains.

The History Of ambulance services

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OVERVIEW

Ambulance services have been crucial in the health care sector for over 100 years and have developed throughout the centuries from just a fleet of ordinary people to an organized body purposely trained for people’s well-being. In recent years many sectors have been added within the ambulance team, it consists in not just drivers but also paramedics, call centres, pilots for helicopter required emergencies and many more, all these sectors are built to provide a rapid and effective system that saves millions of lives not just in England but almost all around the world. This poster illustrates the needs that the ambulance fulfils and its history.

The start of Ambulance services

The first established ambulance service in London was the Metropolitan Asylums Board in 1879 where the first horse-drawn ambulance was introduced, they did max speeds of 10mph and only carried one patient at the time; prior to the horses, during the cholera epidemic the first ever use of an ambulance was required around the 1830s, it was not called as what we know today ambulance but litter which was a fleet of wheeled stretchers used by taxi drivers, police and firefighters to take patients to the nearest hospitals. In the early 19th century, the first motorized ambulance was introduced which started a turning point in the health care system. After World War II in 1948 the national health service (NHS) was established and was mainly formed by women, for the first time ambulances were available to everyone nation-wide and training had also improved. In 1970 the Bedford CF ambulance was established with a new headquarters in waterloo which provided a van that could carry stretchers and medical equipment and in the 1980s the first defibrillator in ambulances and the helicopter emergency medical service launched which transported a doctor and a paramedic to provide treatment faster to life threatening injuries.

Ambulance in 1870



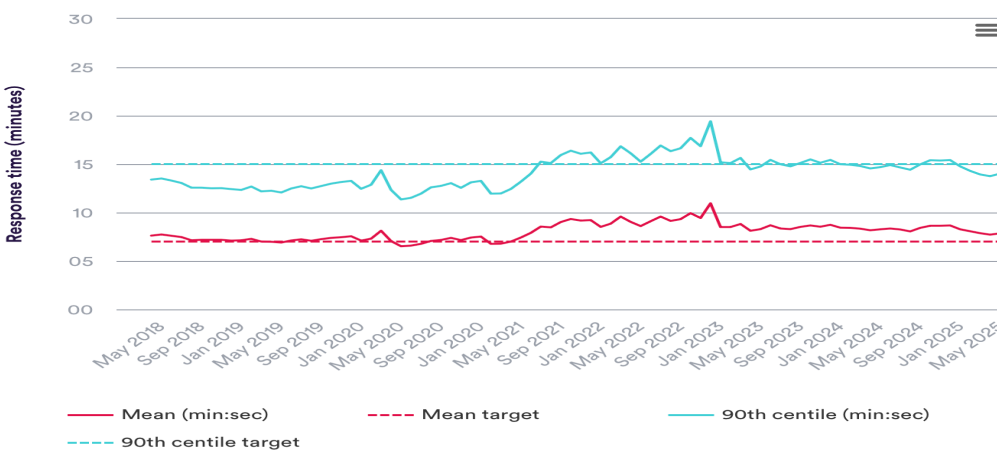
Horse-drawn ambulances from article “our-history-a timeline” by “London ambulance services.

The role of ambulance services today

Today Ambulance services offer more than just transport but also hospital level treatment, well-equipped transport with defibrillators and a larger capacity of both drivers and ambulances that allows everyone to have access to the service when needed. Around the early 2000s a motorcycle response unit was launched, and waterloo was the largest station in Europe dealing with 3500 calls a day according to the London ambulance service article “our history”. Moving forward today we have new stations, a wider selection of programs and degrees to improve the ambulance services which led to being able to answer over 6000 emergency calls in one day and have 400 ambulances in London, including bicycle units, motorcycle and even an electric fleet. Call operatives have a very important role as they allocated the different resources to each patient depending on the level of urgency needed which allows faster responses and no wasted personnel.

Scarcity and Funding

The amount of emergency calls has been increasing over the years. Most people, whether is an emergency, rely on an ambulance due to a faster treatment or professional look, this is due to delays with GP appointments and long waits in A&E. The number of calls put a restraint to the ambulance services as there are more calls than trained staff available and could be crucial because as stated by John Glasby “for some people, services are provided in an emergency, and the rapid availability of high-quality ambulance, hospital and surgical services can quite literally be a matter of life and death”. If the funding was also increasing then more staff could be hired, which would allow more patients who are not in need of emergency treatment to be seen leaving more space for those in life or death situations.



source: Nuffield Trust & the health foundations. The graph illustrates the response time target not being met.

Ambulance servicers have grown from just a horse drawn carriage to a vital sector in many people’s lives. With a fast growing demand for it and not enough resources these services have managed to provide medical help and transportation for over 100 years during wars and epidemic outbreaks just with volunteers and charities. The introduction of motorized ambulance was a turn of events that pushed the sector for the better but also showed flaws such as training and underfunding. Closer today ambulances answer over 6000 calls and are always expanding skills and allocate resources efficiently to provided faster, safer care. Overall the ambulance, like many other key work areas of a country, have developed exponentially from a single horse carriage or a litter to electric cars, helicopters and many more, all while being underfunded.

Hospital handover delays

Hospitals can be very busy especially emergency departments due to overcrowded hospitals with no beds, rooms or staff to allocate patients to which forces the ambulance to wait for a drop off and potential delay them to the next patient in need for an emergency that could be a death or life situation. This has become a concern for the nation as it can not only risk death to the patient as mentioned previously but also put the ambulance team under stress and pressure which could be easily avoided if there was an increased funding toward the health care system as a whole so everyone in need could be taken care of in a faster and safer manner whiteout overworking anyone.