

Task 2

The National Health Service (NHS) is one of the most important public health systems in the world. It was founded in 1948 to provide free healthcare to all people in the United Kingdom. The NHS was created to make sure that everyone could get medical treatment, no matter their income or social status. This idea changed the way healthcare was delivered and became a model for other countries. (Webster, 2002) Today people under the age of 18 are entitled to free medical care.

Before the NHS was formed, healthcare in the UK was very unequal. People had to pay for most medical care, and poor families often could not afford to see a doctor. Voluntary hospitals were put in place they were run by charities, but this was not accessible to everyone. Working people could use the National Insurance Act of 1911, which allowed them to see a doctor, but only if they paid. This meant that many people, especially women, children, and the unemployed, were left out. (Baly, 1995)

There was a need for an improved health system during the Second World War (1939–1945). To care for both soldiers and civilians, medical services were organised nationwide. This demonstrated that a nation could successfully manage its public health system. Webster (2002) A new welfare state was suggested in a 1942 report by Sir William Beveridge in order to combat "want, disease, ignorance, squalor, and idleness." Social reform, including the notion of a free national health service, was based on his Beveridge Report. (Beveridge, 1942)

The NHS was officially launched on 5 July 1948 under the leadership of Aneurin Bevan, the Minister of Health in the Labour government. Bevan believed that healthcare should be a basic right, not a privilege. The NHS was built on three key principles: "It meets the needs of everyone. It is free at the point of delivery. It is based on clinical need, not the ability to pay." (NHS, 2023)

Due to these ideas, everyone in Britain was able to receive medical care without worrying about their financial situation. With tax funding, hospitals, physicians, nurses, and dentists were consolidated into a single system. The NHS became a truly national service as a result. (Ham, 2014)

In order to address new issues including an ageing population, emerging illnesses, and advancements in medical technology, the NHS has expanded and evolved over time. The NHS is currently divided into four distinct systems:

NHS England, NHS Scotland, NHS Wales, and Northern Ireland's Health and Social Care. Each system is responsible for healthcare in its part of the UK, but all follow the same founding principles (Nuffield Trust, 2022).

In the UK, the Secretary of State for Health leads the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), which is in charge of overseeing the NHS. The NHS England organisation is in charge of funding and planning for healthcare. It collaborates with Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), which combine social services, community services, general practitioners, and hospitals to enhance local health outcomes (NHS England, 2022). The majority of funding comes from regular taxes, with a small amount coming from National Insurance contributions. While the majority of NHS services are provided without charge, some, like prescription drugs and dental care, may have minimal fees (Ham, 2014).

Among the many services offered by the NHS are primary care (GPs, chemists and dentists), secondary care (hospitals, specialists) and public health initiatives like screening and vaccination. The system also prioritises enhancing patient choice, digital healthcare, and prevention (NHS, 2023).

The NHS still represents equality, but it faces many obstacles. Services are under pressure due to a combination of increased demand, worker shortages, and restricted finance (Kings Fund, 2023). Concerns over lengthy wait times and differences in location are intensifying. Critics contend that the basic principles of universal care are in danger due to government reforms and privatisation (Pollock, 2005). Nonetheless, supporters point out that the NHS still provides high-quality treatment and has used integrated care models and technology to meet today's needs (Nuffield Trust, 2022) as there are an increase in recognition of new diseases and illnesses for example COVID.

In conclusion, after the horrors of war, a yearning for justice and compassion gave rise to the NHS. It was intended to provide healthcare to everyone, regardless of wealth, based on need. Despite its difficulties, the NHS is still regarded as one of the most important organisations in the UK. More than 75 years after its founding, its basic principles of equality, universality, and public service still direct its operations. In order for the NHS to effectively serve future generations, it is imperative that these ideals be upheld. I personally believe the NHS is vital without any organisation they're pros and cons. This organisation has benefited many people and continues to save lives.

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