What does it mean for Stockport?

Stockport comes under the Sustainability and Transformation Plan for Greater Manchester and the plans for ‘Stockport Together’ are aligned with these plans. The plans require total savings of £136m and include health and social care integration as demanded by the government, supposedly to improve care. It is hoped that these integration and community care plans will contribute savings of £38m in five years, assuming that the plans work and that there is a reduction of 50% in out-patient appointments and of 30% in non-elective and A&E activity. The plans are also based on restricting people going into hospital and getting them out as fast as possible. Hospital is more expensive and so some healthcare will move into the community. To free up money to allow this to happen, more beds will have to close at Stepping Hill. Over the winter changes to intermediate services (care to avoid hospital admissions and to help prompt discharge) will take place. These changes will be evaluated and apparently the people of Stockport will be consulted. Although a consultation about people’s opinion of intermediate care in July 2015 only attracted 32 respondents and this was used to inform Stockport Together planning. Once this has been completed and everyone is happy that it is working according to plan **BEDS WILL CLOSE**, land will be sold and Stockport Together will go full steam ahead.

**THIS COULD MARK THE END OF THE NHS IN STOCKPORT AS WE KNOW IT**

What happens when there aren’t enough beds? Stockport is growing! Once health care is in the community it can be tendered out to private companies, just like social care. Are there enough people to staff care in the community? Are there enough beds? Will it rely on volunteers and able people at home? We still do not know the full details of this experiment with our lives and OUR NHS because nobody has bothered to tell us. Why? Do they think that we might complain? Of course the same thing is happening throughout the country. Stockport Together sees itself as becoming an **Accountable Care Organisation**.

It will be independent from central government because that’s also a feature of being part of an STP and sometime in the future it can be bought as a package by a private company and we can pay health insurance to use it, if we can afford to. Just like they do in America and just like it was before the NHS. That’s exactly what the Government has been planning all along.

**GET ANGRY! COMPLAIN TO YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS AND YOUR MP**

“They didn’t believe they could win the election if they told you what they were going to do”

Michael Portillo talking about Tory plans for our NHS during an interview on the BBC in 2013. Mr Portillo was a Conservative MP & government Minister.

“Our ambition should be to ....denationalise healthcare in Britain”

Jeremy Hunt 2009 (Secretary of State For Health)

“The NHS ‘will not exist’ within 5 years of a Conservative Election Victory”

Oliver Letwin, Government Minister in charge of Conservative policy

“No top down reorganisation of the NHS”

was the lie that Mr Cameron and the Conservative party told, time and time again, in order to get elected. It was an outright lie.

The evidence of this lie and the deliberate attempt to mislead the British people isn’t just in the opinion of Mr Portillo. It is manifest in Cameron’s **2012 Health & Social Care Act** that abolished the Secretary of State For Health’s ‘duty to provide’ a national health service throughout England and among other things turned the NHS into a market place. It also introduced clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) who control the budget and health care in their area, deciding which care is available to meet reasonable requirements.

**They do not have a duty to provide a comprehensive free health service!**

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**THE END OF THE NHS?**

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**STOCKPORT NHS WATCH**

Celebrating & Protecting the NHS

Website: [www.stockportnhswatch.co.uk](http://www.stockportnhswatch.co.uk)

Email: [info@stockportnhswatch.co.uk](mailto:info@stockportnhswatch.co.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StockportNHSWatch](http://www.facebook.com/StockportNHSWatch)
As this Act failed to have the desired effect, Jeremy Hunt now has another plan that has been secretly evolving.

Retaining the CCGs, NHS England has divided England into 44 distinct areas called footprints and made each one put together *Sustainability and Transformation Plans* and so integrate health and social care. In Stockport, this is called *Stockport Together* and is formed from the current providers of health and social care in Stockport; Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, Pennine Care Foundation Trust, Viaduct Health GP Federation, Stockport MBC and Stockport CCG. Of course both health and social care have been underfunded for many years, but these plans demand even more savings. That’s partly what it is about. Cuts!

But, there are other motives...

In 2014 Jeremy Hunt (Secretary of State For Health) said ‘we need clinical commissioning groups to become accountable care organisations’

In America, these are organisations that are run by private health companies and they provide all care for a population for a fee. He also said that the Sustainability and Transformation Plans (like Stockport Together) are ‘precisely designed to make that happen’

Jeremy Hunt has suggested that we should be ‘finding a way forward to the ‘budgetary arrangements’ of *Kaiser Permanente*’. This is a health maintenance organization (HMO). It is a medical insurance group that controls health services for a fixed annual fee.

It makes life and death decisions based on cost and not on care.

The British NHS model, notwithstanding its faults, repeatedly scores well in international league tables especially in delivering value for money for the greatest number of people.

In 2014 *The Commonwealth Fund, New York*, an independent research group ranked Britain first in a comparative study of eleven countries.

(based on data up to 2013) Since then spending on the NHS continues to drop.

**WE SPEND LESS PER HEAD THAN ANY OF OUR NEAR EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS.**

However, the fallout from Cameron’s 2012 Act is visible everywhere, bad news ‘NHS’ stories abound. The Telegraph says our NHS should be ‘replaced not fixed’. Where this is all heading is buried under scare mongering about us all ‘getting older’ or ‘costing too much’ Jeremy Hunt indulges in endless finger wagging and criticism of staff, he blames the consequences of the funding crisis on the organisation and the people working in it.

**A classic scenario; defund, disorganize, discredit, PRIVATISE**

So, where are we heading? Is it to an American style insurance based health system where the organisation in charge also makes decisions about the care that can be given according to price? Rationing already exists in the NHS in Stockport. Stockport Together could easily be sold off, its been designed to make this easy!

“*The latest reforms offer private sector organisations an enormous opportunity*”  **Michael McDonnell NHS Director of Strategy July 2016**

Given a choice few people in the UK would welcome a USA Health system, including many who already have an element of private health insurance. But, we aren’t being given a choice. It’s slowly being imposed upon us by stealth, with our NHS being reduced to just a fig leaf logo. All over England contracts for NHS services are being awarded to profit driven companies in a chaotic and expensive farce. As one of the wealthiest nations on the earth we keep being told the NHS is unaffordable, yet our British NHS is still the best value model, we get more for less and all of us have the peace of mind that we and our families will be cared for when ill. The destruction of our NHS is advanced. It will take years to rebuild and repair. This is achievable. We start not with another big reorganisation, but by doing just two things: **Restore the legal responsibility of the government to provide a universal health service, paid for through taxes and free at the point of delivery**; this was removed by Cameron in 2012. **Halt the awarding of contracts to private sector firms that is so destructive to infrastructure**. We can and should rebuild from there. Let us reclaim our wonderful and unique British NHS. Funding the NHS properly and having a healthy population should be seen as an investment for the country, not a cost.