

CHAPTER 6

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Imagine a National Health Society. Imagine living in a clean environment, with satisfying work, good housing, a balanced diet, a good education, active, safe and sustainable transport, and much greater equality. This is well-being – so vital to good health. Imagine being in no doubt that the health service is publicly funded, with free prescriptions, dentistry and chiropody; one in which you have a human relationship with your doctors and nurses, who make your care their principal aim. A health service in which individual and local knowledge take the place of protocols and pathways, and free social and nursing care is provided for the elderly; one which prizes prompt and local access to care, and encourages a culture of prevention as well as cure. Imagine a system that respects and trusts health professionals and gives them the time, space, training and rewards to do their job. This could be the real health service; it is the Green Party's joined-up approach to health and well-being.

WE WILL END NHS PRIVATISATION

The Green Party believes healthcare shouldn't be bought and sold. All the other parties have encouraged the marketisation and privatisation of provision and this has led to:

- Fragmentation of services, with patients falling into gaps between providers, and poor communication between clinicians;
- Outsourcing, with companies cutting corners to win contracts;
- Cherry-picking of profitable treatments by private providers, leaving the NHS to provide treatments that are not properly funded; and
- An increase in administration costs of 9% of the NHS budget.

We will maintain a publicly funded, publicly provided health service free at the point of use. Money spent on health will remain in the public economy, supporting the NHS rather than going into private companies' profits.

We will:

- Repeal the Health and Social Care Act 2012, and introduce an NHS Reinstatement Bill
 - restoring the obligation upon the government to provide a comprehensive health service,
 - abolishing competition and the purchaser-provider split,
 - ending market-based commissioning and procurement,
 - re-establishing public bodies, a role for not-for-profit organisations and public accountability,
 - restricting the role of commercial companies, and
 - repealing the right of the Secretary of State to close hospitals or departments without effective public participation.
- Promote transparency by ending *commercial confidentiality*.
- Carry out an investigation into the opaque system of patronage and lobbying that has characterised the privatisation of the NHS.