

Removing Homeopathy from NHS Scotland

Submitted by the Scottish Young Liberals

Conference notes the 2010 House of Commons Science and Technology Committee report on homeopathy which affirms that homeopathic remedies perform no better than placebos and was based on principles which are “scientifically implausible.”

Conference further notes that:

1. The fundamental principles of homeopathy are that further dilution of a substance increases its potency, a process called “succussion”, and that “like cures like” (e.g. consuming something stinging shall cure a sting). Homeopathy originates from Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843), and his views are in opposition to the most basic fundamentals of understood chemistry and biology.
2. It is the view of the ex-Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Dame Sally Davies that homeopathy is unproductive in helping patients.
3. Homeopathy prescriptions have been blacklisted by the Department of Health for NHS England.
4. That a legal challenge by the British Homeopathic Association to overturn plans to ban the prescription of homeopathic treatments was rejected by the High Court of Justice.
5. That the NHS England Chief Executive, Simon Stevens, welcomed the High Court ruling, stating, “there is no robust evidence to support homeopathy which is at best a placebo and a misuse of scarce NHS funds.”

Conference therefore calls on the Scottish Government to:

1. Ban the prescription of homeopathy in NHS Scotland, to be in line with those practices now implement in NHS England.
2. Make a firm commitment to individual choice, in that homeopathy can still be purchased privately by individuals, but not at the expense of the NHS Scotland Budget.