



WE Party Conference

Kettering 7 – 9 September 2018

Title: A motion to protect the long-term sustainability of the NHS

Proposed by: Sophie Walker, WE Leader

Type of motion: Policy

Motion text:

- 1 The Women's Equality Party Conference:
- 2 Notes the development of a seventh policy objective on Equality in Health;
- 3 Notes that the long-term sustainability of the NHS is a deeply gendered political issue;
- 4 Believes the recommendations made by Lord Patel's cross-party committee comprise a good and
- 5 practicable way forward;
- 6 Therefore calls on the government to adopt the following in respect of England and Wales:
 - 7 • Create an Office for Health and Care Sustainability, that will stand independent of government
 - 8 but report directly to Parliament, to identify the healthcare needs of a changing and ageing
 - 9 population, and write a long-term staffing and funding plan to match.
 - 10 • Ensure NHS funding rises at least as fast as GDP for ten years after 2020; focus particularly
 - 11 on addressing salaries of low-paid staff; commission an independent review of pay policy with
 - 12 a particular regard to its impact on morale and retention of health and care staff.
 - 13 • Move adult social care budgets into the Department of Health and Social Care and ensure
 - 14 that social care funding increases are, as a minimum, aligned with the rate of increase for the
 - 15 NHS.
 - 16 • Undertake a bureaucracy and regulation review of the NHS that includes a strategy for uptake
 - 17 of technology and innovation, in order to promote best practice and administration.
 - 18 • Maintain a tax-funded, free-at-the-point-of-use model to deliver health services now and in
 - 19 the future.

Motion rationale:

20 The sustainability of the NHS is a deeply gendered political issue and as such one that the
21 Women's Equality Party must address. Women make up 89 percent of nurses and 90 percent of
22 support staff; the NHS relies on 97,000 women from overseas of whom 47,000 come from the EU
23 and EEA.

24 The NHS is underfunded precisely because the UK does not value care, because care is primarily
25 the work of women and because women are forced to step in to provide care unpaid when official
26 infrastructure is lacking.

27 The Women's Equality Party has pledged to spend equally on social infrastructure as on physical
28 infrastructure. It has researched and created policies around Equal Health. WE policy should also
29 propose a solution to the immediate problems being faced by the NHS in order to ensure a
30 functioning delivery system for our Equality in Health proposals, to safeguard the jobs of the women
31 working in the NHS and to deliver our pledge to spend equally on social infrastructure as on
32 physical infrastructure.

References:

<https://www.nhsemployers.org/-/media/Employers/Publications/Gender-in-the-NHS.pdf>

<https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/resource/the-nhs-workforce-in-numbers#3-what-do-the-shortages-mean-for-hospital-staffing>

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7783>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/how-can-david-cameron-claim-to-be-a-champion-of-women-when-the-junior-doctor-contract-treats-them-as-a6962956.html>

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201617/ldselect/ldnhssus/151/151.pdf>