

NHS business and its gurus: which is greater, the corruption or ineptitude?

Last week's Times article *NHS management gurus waste millions* (13.11.20), together with Keir Starmer's recent parliamentary questions, will hopefully, if belatedly, awaken more of us to just how incompetent and liable to corruption is the ever-growing marketisation of our NHS. Many of the public remain largely oblivious of this, believing that the ubiquitous blue NHS logo somehow confers our best and purest public probity. This is often, rather, a shield of deception.

As an older NHS medical practitioner, I and my colleagues have been long unable to stop this slide into slickly spun inefficiency and nepotism. We have been both witness and victim to a system that impoverishes the spirit and influence of the vocational practitioner while massively inflating the marketised rewards for entrepreneurs, NHS Trust managers and their hired business consultants.

In 2014, as a GP I tried to warn my Clinical Commissioning Group of this. We were struggling with the largely unworkable responsibility of purchasing other services for our patients. My questions and objections were silenced: instead MBA-graduate gurus were hired at enormous expense to make a robust business of and for us. They clearly failed, as has the whole misconceived long-term national project.

Remarkably, and alarmingly, there are still enormous and quick profits to be made...