

## **‘NHS business model bust, needing Enoch Powell-style leadership to switch cash to social care,’ warns Labour ex-Health Minister**

Embargoed until: 00.01 Monday 27 May 2013

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Full Speech: <http://www.haciric.org/news/how-to-fix-the-bust-nhs-business-model>

**Radical leadership must end NHS ring-fenced funding, consolidate acute services on fewer sites, transfer billions to social care and transform the ‘bust NHS business’ to avoid a ‘2015 train crash’, a Labour ex-health minister has warned.**

Lord Norman Warner, warned that, without firm leadership like Enoch Powell showed in ‘tearing down’ Victorian asylums and shifting spending, the NHS faces a financial ‘train crash’ after 2015. Lord Warner, who was Labour health minister in charge of NHS reform in the last Government, was speaking in central London at a forum on the impact of greater local autonomy on NHS innovation, held by HaCIRIC (Health and Care Infrastructure Research and Innovation Centre).

He said: ‘There is an urgent need for the kind of leadership that can force a consolidation of 24/7 acute services on fewer specialist sites; redeployment of resources – staff and money – to better community-based services integrated with social care; and rebuilding the funding of social care at the expense of the NHS.’ The transfer of funds from the NHS should be at least £2bn, he added.

Lord Warner said: ‘Almost without people noticing, the NHS core business has become managing chronic conditions in an ageing population... However, we have retained, for the most part, an expensive hospital-dominated service-delivery model with insufficient competent community-based services for managing the core business... We seem politically, professionally and managerially incapable of changing this failing business model at the pace now required. Unless there is urgent action, I can see a financial train crash after the 2015 election.’

Lord Warner argued that the more locally driven NHS emerging from the Government’s reforms was not powerful enough to enact the changes needed quickly enough. ‘It must be very doubtful whether they can drive the necessary consolidation of specialist services on fewer sites and the extraction of resources from hospitals to fund better integrated community services without central political and professional leadership. I cannot see this leadership emerging before the 2015 Election.’

Lord Warner, who is a member of the Dilnot Commission on Funding of Care and Support, accepted that Labour had made mistakes. ‘The NHS wasted the Labour years of plenty and as a government we didn’t ask enough of the NHS for the extra tax payers money we pumped in.’

**Notes:** The Health and Care Infrastructure Research and Innovation Centre is a collaboration between Imperial College London and the Universities of Loughborough, Reading and Salford. Funded by the EPSRC, it is the world’s largest research programme in healthcare infrastructure.

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