

5 July 2023

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfbL4WMsV1c>

On the eve of the NHS's 75th Anniversary, we've got a special insight into its past, present and future for the people who make it what it is. ITV News was invited to spend a day with the staff at the Royal Preston Hospital in Lancashire². We heard from midwives, nurses, paramedics and doctors who still love what they do and are very proud of what the NHS stands for, but they're all struggling with the mounting pressure of record waiting lists and the crisis in social care, and the staff along with the patients they care for have shared with us their concerns for the future of the NHS.

Our health correspondent Martin Stew has this special report.

Six pounds 13 ounces³, all nice and normal back there, Albert is the latest of 330 babies born each month at the Royal Preston. "I can't stop looking at him".

De 56" à 1'03 : From cradle to grave, the NHS cares for us. But is the system itself now sick? "It is worrying but the..., when you've actually got the staff there, they're amazing, it just seems to be..."

"Ten years I've been a midwife. You never get bored of it, it's not just a job it's a vocation." Lorraine has seen colleagues leave to earn more abroad or privately.

Lorraine Morris, midwife: "It's understaffed, it's underfunded, there's lots more improvements that need to be made but it would be a great shame if it ever went away, and I don't think people quite realize that sometimes until it's too late."

"It is the worst I've ever known in emergency nursing and emergency medicine."

1'48

"The emergency department was originally built for 20. It's a good day when we've got a space that we can let every patient to when we need to." Today there are 60, in the winter it was 120.

"Are you confident all the patients that come through are getting the care that they should get?"

Jennifer Ashcroft, Emergency Department Matron: "No, I'm not confident and I'll be, that is we do, we strive to give the best care, but could you argue that giving the best care in a waiting room or in a corridor potentially, is that the best care?"

"Sadly, not unusual to see staff members in tears at the end of the shift because they know they could have done better."

Dr Michael Stewart, Emergency Department Consultant: "Very difficult is the way it's going at the moment that the pressure increases year on year."

Stephen smashed his elbow after falling off a ladder. "Come here today and was through in matter of minutes like you know can't knock it, staff are brilliant. Last year wife Susan had a less positive experience. Herself a retired nurse she spent two days on a bed in a corridor at a different hospital. Susan Wilding, former nurse: "I never would have thought when I started nursing eight like 42 years ago that I would ever be nursed in a corridor because there were no beds. It made me very sad, and it made me glad that I had actually given it work."

Whilst modern pressures strain the system...

"Hey Megan, you all right today, how are you feeling?"

"Yeah, not too bad yeah".

...modern drugs and equipment offer opportunities.

"So we're going to get you on the bed then and we're going to line you up using these cameras."

Megan is coming to the end of her breast cancer treatment. Radiotherapy once crudely calculated with rulers is now millimeter-precise thanks to infrared positioning, a treatment which would cost thousands privately. Megan Hayhurst, patient: "It has been amazing to know that this sort of ? is here for people like me because I just never planned that getting cancer at 28 you know, that's not something that sort of ? in my life."

¹ National Health Service, created in 1948

² North West of England, between Manchester and Blackpool.

³ 3,090 kg

"You think **we should fight to keep it?**"

"Absolutely."

Outside **an ambulance pulls up 23,000 times a year.**

"Are we doing all right, yeah good, thank you."

Alan's been a paramedic 22 years.

Alan Swain, Paramedic, North West Ambulance Service

"Enjoy it?"

"Love the job."

"Has it **changed massively?**"

"We're **getting a lot of mental health jobs**; we're getting a lot of **elderly patients** because they're living longer and people ring an ambulance now a lot more for the **little things** that common sense could probably sort out."

This winter was the worst he's seen.

"Sat in the ambulance for 11 and a half hours with a patient back waiting to get through the hospital door. It is **getting better** in some respects but it's a long road and there's not one single answer that will sort these problems out."

One of the biggest challenges is the hundreds of beds filled with patients waiting to be discharged.

Anne Kirkham, Head of Community Services. "Hi Martin, nice to meet you."

This used to be a private care home... "This is Buttercup unit" ...but has now been taken over by the hospital.

"We've got a really big social space here."

Rather than spending 10 days in a ward, 64 patients can convalesce here.

"Because **the environment is very different** to being on the ICU hospital bed; they've improved to a point where we've actually got them home rather than going into long-term care."

100-year-old Rachel is heading home today.

"So when you were a child"

"Yeah that's going back a bit, yeah"

"You would have had to pay for your doctors?"

"Yeah we had you know what, we had to pay, my mum said, if you asked the doctors to come out, it was six months. **People couldn't afford this.**"

Professor Mohammed Munavvar, Respiratory Consultant: "This is kind of a guided tour step by step through the airway."

Today Dr Munavvar treats patients for free with the latest technology. **Three years ago, he led his team through Covid.** For the first time in our careers, we saw a situation where we're going into work, and we knew there was a **real danger of one of us succumbing to the illness.** So essentially the whole ward becomes red. **If we did not have the NHS, I don't know how we would have coped to the pandemic like that.** Honestly, I saw **very fragmented care provided in some countries because they did not have a health system like the NHS.** They were just not pulling together as a team."

The hospital is still battling to catch up from pandemic postponements. Strikes haven't helped. Each day of action sees 500 appointments canceled.

Kevin McGee, Chief Executive, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. "All of this means **the NHS is incredibly pressurized,** but you know what **we are still coping and we will continue to cope.**"

"So, **you'll still be here another 25 years?**"

"Absolutely, the founding principles of the NHS being **free at the points of care, being universal are what makes this country great.**"

"For every challenge there's care and compassion, but staff here fear without real change, **by the time Albert is 75, he may no longer be able to rely on the NHS the same way his parents have.** Martin Stew, ITV News Preston.

- **Watch the beginning of this video (42 seconds). Fill in the blanks.**

On the eve of the _____, we've got a special insight into its _____ for the people who make it what it is. ITV News was

invited to spend a day with the staff at the _____ in Lancashire. We heard from _____, _____, _____ and _____ who still love what they do and are very proud of what the _____ stands for, but they're all struggling with the _____ of record waiting lists and the _____ in social care, and the staff along with the patients they care for have shared with us their _____ for the future of the _____.

Our health correspondent Martin Stew has this special report.

- **Then, in groups of two or three, invent a witness who is going to be interviewed (midwives, nurses, paramedics and doctors + patients). One of you will be the witness, the other one will be the journalist leading the interview. When there is a group of three, one will be a patient, the other one the journalist, and the last one will be a relative of the patient.**

- **Explain what the NHS is.**

The National Health Service (NHS) is the publicly funded healthcare system of the United Kingdom. It was established in 1948 as part of major social reforms following the Second World War. The founding principles were that services should be comprehensive, universal and free.

- **Listen to the following sentence: (56'' to 1'03) From cradle to grave, the NHS cares for us. But is the system itself now sick?**

In your own words, explain what it means.

It means that the NHS starts taking care of you throughout your entire life, from the moment you were born up to the moment you die. However, the journalist wonders, through an analogy, if the system might be failing.

- **Watch the rest of the video once. Try to identify the people mentioned.**

Albert

Lorraine Morris

Dr Michael Stewart

Jennifer Ashcroft

Stephen and wife Susan

Megan

Alan Swain

Anne Kirkham

Rachel

Professor Mohammed Munavvar

Kevin McGee

- **Then listen individually and pick out information about one of them, and what they think about the NHS.**

- **Conclusion: what is the general opinion about the NHS?**

It seems to be a great social system, based on welfare for all, and at no cost. People in Britain are very much attached to it, and it is a much better situation than before. However, because of spending cuts, the NHS is no longer able to offer satisfying care for all. Professionals especially are worried about the quality of service the NHS offers.

- **Lecture Welfare CM 2023**

- **Debate: the NHS is no longer working; we should abolish it and move on to a system closer to the American one. Exchange ideas.**