

Politics, Policies and Prisons

A success story from England

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2000 - 2007

1948 The National Health Service Formed



1996 “Patient or Prisoner” – report by Chief Inspector of prisons



2000 Prison Health Task Force formed



2002 Decision to transfer responsibility to NHS



2006 Transfer of responsibility completed

1948 The National Health Service Formed

Free health service already available to prisoners circa 20,000

1996 “Patient or Prisoner” – report by Chief Inspector of prisons

Waning Government – elections due April 1997 – new Govt inherits agenda – has to act

2000 Prison Health Task Force formed

Legacy excuse run out - Preparing new spending plans – massive investment in health accidentally committed

2002 Decision to transfer responsibility to NHS

Agreeing huge increase 40% but wanting delivery and no heat – not popular to invest in prisons

2006 Transfer of responsibility completed

Preparing for leadership change – legacy issues – getting the job finished

Riding the waves

(and maybe creating a few!)

- **Manifesto commitments on health, crime & social justice:**
 - Health - The key is to root out unnecessary administrative cost, and to spend money on the right things - frontline care
 - Crime – we believe in personal responsibility and in punishing crime but also we believe in tackling its underlying causes.
- **Wanting to be seen to have delivered commitments**
- **Political rivalries**
- **Why is transfer good?**
 - Apart from public health benefits this is an easier route for investment
 - In England \$40bn over next 4 year – including prisons
 - Ministry of Justice growth = 0