

What's new this time?

- Defending the welfare state

Newsletter 7 April 2010

The H:MC21 banner will be on the [demonstration in London this Saturday](#), April 10th:

Defending the Welfare State and Public Services

The organisers of the demonstration recognise that there have been massive attacks since the 1980s on the whole ethos of public service provision of health care, pensions, etc. They are concerned that the NHS is being slowly privatised under the name of 'patient choice'. H:MC21 has always argued for "Defending Choice in Medicine". Our position is that: *We do not represent an opposition to orthodox medical practitioners, since they too are committed to alleviating illness and suffering. At the same time we recognise that they are confronted by problems in their work, such as the fact that the £8bn drugs bill of the NHS is allied to a £2bn bill for adverse reactions to those drugs. We believe that these orthodox medical practitioners are entitled to honest information about homeopathy as an alternative, and to the results of honest testing of the homeopathic approach to treatment.*

We do not believe that medicine should be privatised, but that medical treatment free at the point of delivery is one of the great achievements of civilised society.

From the 'Where we stand' page

<http://www.hmc21.org/#/where-we-stand/4533514913>

H:MC21 recently lobbied Parliament on the question of choice in the NHS, because it turns out that in practice, 'choice' means no choice at all as far as homeopathy is concerned. If the PCTs decide that homeopathy does not work and you choose it, all too often you will not find it available on the NHS! If homeopathy is an easy option for cuts, it is not the only part of the welfare state under threat. All the parties have said that they are looking for cuts. We believe that homeopathy can only be defended by people working together, and so we support others fighting these cuts. If you work for the NHS, you will probably be on this demo. If you are in private practice,

you should be there too. If homeopathy is removed from the NHS as part of these cuts, its opponents will simply argue around the world that "If homeopathy worked it would still be in the NHS".

Further information about getting there is [available here](#).



William and Uschi on the NHS Together demonstration in 2007