



Rebuilding Britain

Learning Objective:

To consider ways in which the creation of the NHS improved the lives of people living in Britain.



Do you know
what the NHS is?



What does it do?



How does
it work?

Talk to a partner...



BACK

NEXT

The National Health Service

The NHS logo, consisting of the letters 'NHS' in white on a blue rectangular background, is suspended from a crane hook by a thin wire. The crane hook is part of a larger structure visible in the top left corner of the slide.

NHS

The NHS was created in 1948. It was one of the first major achievements during the rebuilding of Britain in the post-war years.

It promised free health care for everyone in Britain, whatever the type of care they needed, wherever they lived and regardless of whether or not they could afford it.



Britain's health in the 1940s:

Before the NHS, health care in Britain was limited, expensive in some cases, and very different from one part of the country to the next. It wasn't fair!

- More than one in twenty infants died before the age of two
- One in fifteen children and adults died of tuberculosis
- 98% of children under the age of eleven had tooth decay
- Many young children died every year from easily treatable diseases such as pneumonia and bronchitis





Children in particular benefitted. They were the group who were most at risk of getting ill, and possibly dying because of illness, before and during the war.

How do you think the NHS was first created? What treatments and services did it offer?

Discuss your ideas...

The NHS was set up in a way that ensured everyone in Britain would start receiving better health care.



How many of these did you think of or know of already?

Research done on diseases and treatments

Vaccinations given to protect against many diseases

Rules and standards written for all medical professionals

Health experts visited people at home to help them

Hospitals built around the country

The NHS in 1948

Free prescriptions of drugs, glasses, dental treatment, hearing aids etc. given

Regular health screenings and check-ups carried out by GPs

Free accommodation, surgery and other treatments as needed in all hospitals

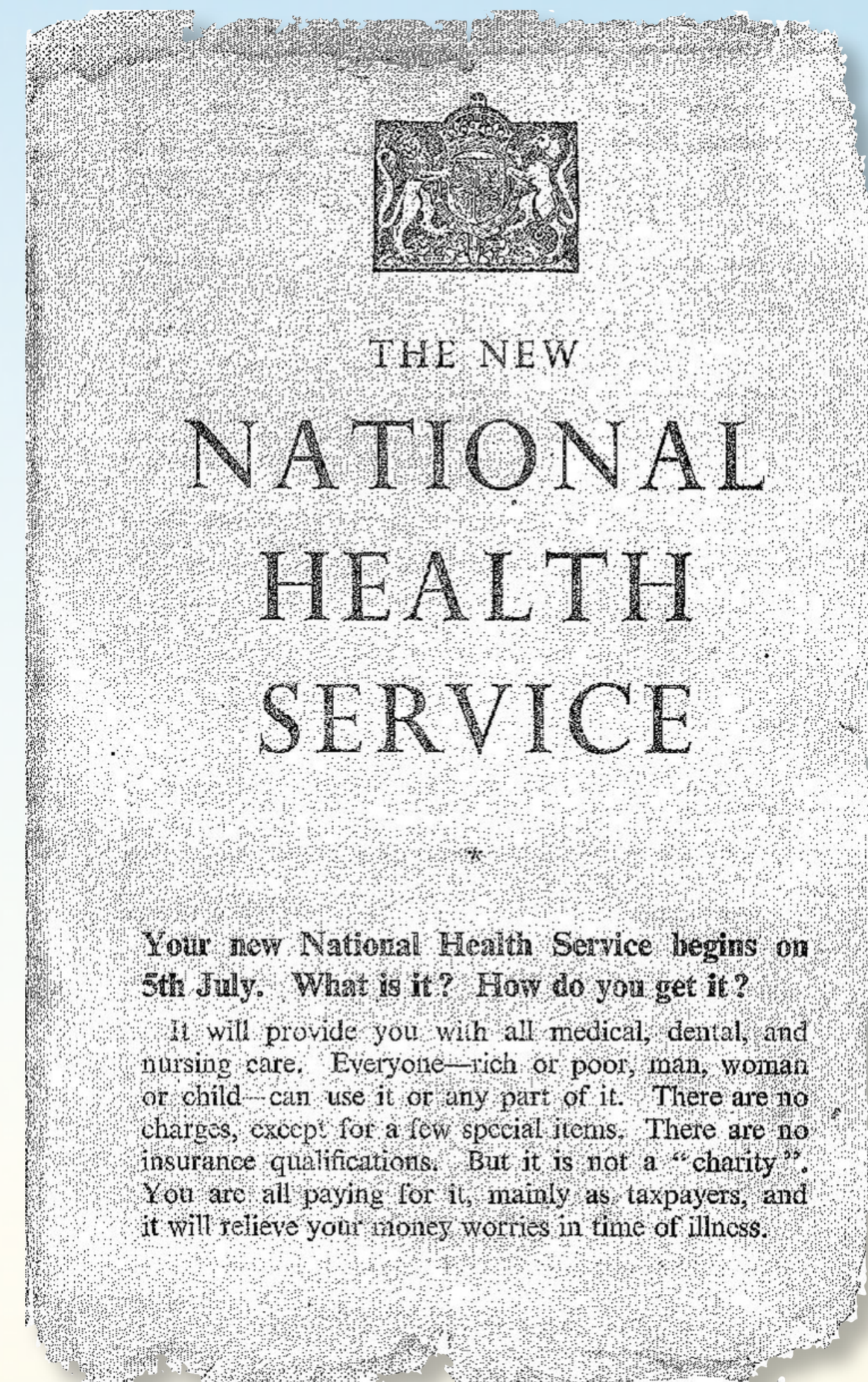
Treatment for people with mental illnesses

Specialised treatment for young children and mothers giving birth

The idea of free health care was so radical that many people did not fully understand what they were going to be getting!



The government sent out leaflets, put up posters and sent people out to towns and villages to explain.



This is a leaflet sent out before the NHS began. It explained the services offered, and how to register to make sure you and your family could get treatment.





By University of Liverpool Faculty of Health & Life Sciences from Liverpool, United Kingdom [CC BY-SA 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Health Minister Aneurin Bevan (top-left), who helped create the NHS, visits a girl in an NHS hospital, 1948. Two nurses stand by him.



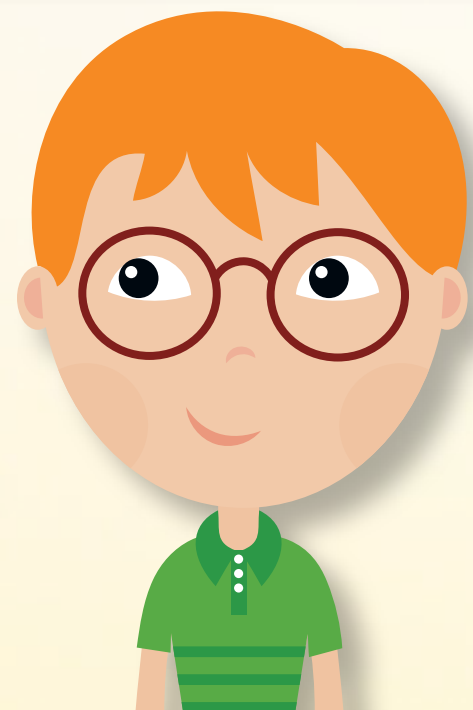
On the right are some images of an NHS hospital today. Things have changed a bit since 1948! What differences do you notice?



Thanks to the NHS, health in Britain has been transformed since the end of the Second World War.

Due to NHS immunisation programmes, many diseases have been almost eradicated. Research programmes have led to amazing developments in treatments and surgery, too.

Here's just a few amazing NHS achievements:



The NHS: Amazing Achievements

- Fewer than 400 deaths per year due to tuberculosis in Britain today
- All children vaccinated against polio, measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, meningitis, diphtheria – and more!
- Development of pioneering surgery techniques – liver, kidney, and heart transplants, hip replacements and replacements of other joints
- The creation of the Organ Donor Register

BACK

NEXT

To begin with, every single service was completely free. This changed in the first few years after the NHS was created.

To try and cope with the huge cost of the NHS, politicians have made many changes to the money it receives, the number of people working for it, and the services it offers. Not everyone agrees with these changes.



Many people have protested about changes to the NHS in the years since its creation. These nurses were protesting changes in 2012.

Do you know of some of these changes? How do you think the NHS is different today?



Think again about your experiences of the NHS.

What do
YOU think is the most
amazing thing about
the NHS?

**Discuss your
ideas...**

