

NEW STATESMAN

11/05/2019

NHS successes

Further to Dr Phil Whitaker's masterly dissection of what lies behind the NHS's constant restructuring (Health Matters, 3 May), I would like to add a word of praise for those exhausted Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) staff, who cared for their patients' health when few other organisations seemed to.

After our son's suicide, I tried for a decade to spread awareness that a head injury carries a risk of wrecking your sex drive and fertility, and causing depression, obesity and fatigue, through pituitary damage. This is something every GP needs to know, especially as the condition can even happen after concussion, yet neither the secretary of state for health, nor Nice, nor the Royal College of GPs until

recently, were interested.

However, when I wrote to those 200 beleaguered CCGs I was most heartened by the way as many as 150 of them responded, usually warmly and quickly – including the information in their GP training days and bulletins, and even sometimes inviting me to speak. They may be on the way out, but I salute them and shall be sorry to see them go.

Joanna Lane

Coulsdon, Greater London