

Colin's Duck

Duration • 3:27

Colin 00:00

So the duck. The duck is... What can I say about the duck? Well, you know the saying, if it looks like a duck, sounds like a duck, it's a duck? And it became a bit of a symbol for myself and many NHS campaigners around the country, because, for years, we've been trying to tell the public that we are moving towards the American healthcare system. And NHS England, the management commissioning board, not the NHS, but the NHS England management board, they've, of course, been denying it, even though, when they first introduced the latest model that they've put in place called Accountable Care Organisations, which is an American model, they denied it completely, and changed the name within a few weeks to Integrated Care Organisations. But it's still, as a northern campaigner said, at a meeting, if it looks like a duck, sounds like a duck, it's a duck. So that gave me the idea that a duck could become a symbol of the NHS campaign.

01:10

And it really has. I've used it, in various forms, not this... This is a Russian doll duck on the mantelpiece and I use it to explain how integrated care is what they call vertically integrated, because you have one big organisation with all the little organisations inside it. It's not integrated at all, it's just putting control into one, sadly, commercial enterprise. So, but as I say, the duck for me, has become a bit of a symbol. When we took NHS England to court to try and stop the American contract coming in, we, outside Leeds High Court, we gave away almost 100 little, tiny, squeaky yellow rubber ducks. And it was brilliant. We didn't let them off in the courtroom. But, outside the court, people were squeaking their ducks. And I'm proud to say that little campaigners have attended NHS meetings, council meetings, all sorts of important meetings. And, when they want to make a point, they squeak their ducks at meetings. And it's really been a source of humour and also I think, just, we've needed things to keep us laughing and keeping us going and knowing that what we're doing is right.

02:30

I've also got a big three, four-foot high blow-up rubber one, which I wear as part of my NHS cabaret called Special Measures. I've got... People have been buying me ducks for the last three years, I've got a box-load of 'em. I keep trying to give them away. But it's because the duck has become a symbol of unity, I suppose, between us all. And to remind ourselves that if it looks like a duck, sounds like a duck, it's a duck. So, if it sounds like an American Accountable Care Organisation, looks like an American Accountable Care Organisation, what is it? Quack quack. Yeah, it's an American Accountable Care Organisation. And that is what I and hundreds of other campaigners around the country are struggling fighting to keep out.

03:21

Quack quack.