

# COVID Custodians

## Rebooted

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When I wrote [COVID Custodians](#) in July this year, I, like many millions in our nations, were hoping that we would see some respite from the tragedies of the first six months of the year.

Sadly, human nature, bungling leadership, and the inability to deliver basic prevention and detection systems means we are again in 'The Thick of It'!

**W**hat I described in July was a "capture movement" from thousands of NHS staff and volunteers who have found better ways to deliver health and care to patients over the last few months.

My plea was that it was supported by NHS boards

life out of the good ideas of good people doing good things.

So has anyone seen it happen?

Have dedicated, hard pressed and exhausted staff been "oxygenated" by seeing their contributions to new ways of working picked up and then

I hope I'm wrong because they will be needed again over the next few months.

Why have to relearn, when what worked for staff and patients then, will work again in the darker weeks ahead?

It is of course brilliant that we have learned much about the clinical response to COVID and the relief seen from existing drugs and new treatments.

It is brilliant to see the collective efforts going into vaccine research - the only medium to long term solution for COVID.

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and management as an informal, process-light way of learning, improving and consolidating best practices.

The regulatory reflex of Big State and the rules-based reflex of grey bureaucrats doesn't get this done and actually suffocates the very

cemented in business as usual?

I wouldn't know, but my suspicions are that it will be, at best, patchy, and as a result hard-earned temporary work arounds will have been lost in time and space.

But, COVID Custodians would deal with the here and now - not 2021 and beyond, and this would support the rest of the delivery of the critical NHS services that are in

difficulty. They would supplement “meds”, and identify the little things that, in the aggregate, make a big difference when shared with colleagues in a unit, across units, and across organisations.

Is it time to move from evolution to revolution

custodians haven't been identified - be they self-identified and recognised, or allocated some time more formally to grab the improvement, document it, and consolidate it as “the Now Way”, then I suspect it is time for another approach.

Maybe we can facilitate custodianship from there. As a relative amateur in the health and care ecosystem, I am in awe of the dedicated frontline staff who make their career a caring one - bringing babies into this crowded world of ours, making people better, and caring for the dying.

*... It doesn't need strategy consultants or Government policy to get this done... just a people's revolution.*

with COVID Custodians?

If an organisation has not enabled this, by having a Board NED and an executive lead allocated as the guardian of the custodians, and if

Through *nhs*Managers, we do of course all benefit from the IHM capture and disseminate “collective” and we also have the excellent Academy of Fabulous Stuff.

There is no higher calling and there is an obligation on all of us to recognise that.

Bringing COVID Custodians to a practical system-wide revolution of better practices, helps our NHS to help us when we need it - which by the way will never be never!

So, take a lead and make custodianship a reality; radiate custodians into a massive beam of positive energy and make every day a better day for the people that work in our NHS and for us as their past, present and future patients.

**It doesn't need strategy consultants or Government policy to get this done... just a people's revolution.**

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