The Liberal Government 1906-1914 introduced a range of social reforms; Pensions 1908, National Insurance Act 1911. These helped workers with sickness from work and in old age.

Factors which drove this change were; the concern with the Boer War that the population were note even fit enough to fight and Political and Ideology of New Liberalism.

World War One also highlighted problems. There was a drive to build homes fit for heroes.

However, medical treatment was not available to all. The NI Act did not apply to mothers and children.

The Industrial Revolution led to rapid urbanization (growth of towns) resulting in overcrowding and poorly built housing with lack of facilities.

This led to health problems such as chest infections and the spread of infectious diseases (TB, Typhus & cholera- 1832)

The main reason little was done was due to laissez faire ideology that it was best for government not to intervene.

Other reasons included economics because they would have to raise taxes (local rates), political reasons, as rate payers were voters and often interested parties and, finally, lack of understanding before 1881 (germ theory).

Roman England featured impressive PH provision; aqueducts, fountains, baths and sewers.

This declined after the collapse of the Empire in 400 AD due to lack of money and knowledge and the turmoil of invasions by Angles, Saxons, Vikings and Normans.

In 1350 waste was left in the street, open sewers flowed into rivers, where fishing and washing occurred.

Towns were unhealthier than villages and infectious disease spread easily. Epidemics included the Black Death 1348, The Great Prague of 1665.

1900-2000

1750-1900 Problems

1350-1750 The Medieval Church

Public Health

WWII highlighted the health problems of the poor. Evacuation raised this awareness and there was a greater sense of joint responsibility.

The Government temporarily took responsibility for medical provision and so gained experience of this.

The NHS was set up in 1946. It provided free health care for all and ran the training and employment of doctors & nurses and funded medical research.

The factors which explain this development include: 1942 Beveridge Report, 600,000 include copies sold. Bevan’s strength of character helped to get the 1946 Act passed. Labour’s socialist ideology valued the role of Government centralized control, Nationalising healthcare, to provide for all.

1900-2000 Post War Period

1st PH Act 1848. Towns had power to set up local boards of health but not compulsory. Set up national board of health with 4 health officers.

Why?- Happened because of Edwin Chadwick, cholera fear, but other factors stopped it being compulsory.

However between 1850-75 more legislation and government intervention e.g. compulsory vaccination (1852), 1875 2nd PH act was compulsory for local authorities to provide facilities. 1889 isolation hospitals set up.

Reasons for change: Germ theory (1861), John Snow(cholera), changes to voting system- poor could vote (1867 and 1884) shift from laissez faire.

1750-1900 Provision

By the 14th Century there were some regulations passed by the local authorities banning the dumping of meat and location of plague pits.

Provision and regulations increased in times of crisis- Black Death 1348, 1361 1369, 1374, 1390 and Great Plague 1665.

There are several reason why provision was limited: Lack of understanding of the spread of disease- supernatural, astrological, humoural, common sense. Lack of money- all spent on wars, no effective public health systems (water and sewers). Beliefs church was all powerful- said Gods will and controlled communications (libraries) and held money. The system of local government was limited- lack of organization and employees (towns run by merchants)

1350-1750 PH Provision