

## **Responses to questionnaire.**

1) The action I would take:

- a) Seek that evidence is provided from a medical perspective – not just financial.
- b) Introduce a concept of unmet need—actually record where there are gaps in service provision
- c) Have a greater focus on carers – they carry a huge burden,

2) A&E and Maternity services at NDDH is an absolute redline for me. With regard to “all services”, their may be grounds for providing specialist skills at other sites.

3) 12 beds are not enough. I would like to see the role of Healthwatch strengthened to provide stronger immediate scrutiny of health care provision.

4) I believe there is a greater need for health and social care to work more closely. As a councillor I would work first provide a concept of starting where the patient is. I believe “Care closer to Home” is misworded- this should “health”. Most of the complaints I have heard refer to social care – a DCC direct fuction. £550 million reduction will have impact on the delivery of services.

5) DCC have the power to refer the matter to the Secretary of State for Health. The evidence must be gathered. On the strength of the evidence a decision must be made to make such a referral. DCC Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny committee is the most democratic challenge to STP programme.

6) There is a basic conflict in that GP’s, who are on the board of CCG’s are now both commissioner and purchaser of health services. Unfortunately we have to recognize the electorate when given a higher or lower tax take, then the lower tax take always wins. Therefore there will be pressure of public services.

7) The consultation process is misnamed. Outcomes are actually now worst than when the process started given the temporary closure of Holsworthy Hospital beds . I believe we need to begin the consultation process by being clear of the medical need of our community. This must include not just present demographic but also future projections. Therefore there will be a basis for discussion based on need/unmet need – a true consultation can take place. Therefore DCC must scrutinise not only on the presentations of the STP but community need across Devon.

8) I whilst I believe this issue of high importance, I believe education takes a higher priority. With all the changes facing education I feel this must take precedence.

Lastly I would state that I have had several concerns about the Ambulance Services – slow or no responses. Further they have not completed an Impact assessment about proposed changes at NDDH.

**Phil Pennington**