

Q1) £550 million could perhaps be slashed from Devon's Health budget if the CCG abolished themselves and their salaries and the pension pot that goes with it. I would also investigate how another council took over the PFI debt, which was then transferred to the Treasury. This was reported in the Independent some months ago. I would call upon the new government to abolish CCGs, require ALL private healthcare providers to be "not for profit" C.I.C.s and to remove the internal market from the NHS.

Q2) As a County Councillor, I would initiate a notice of motion to call for a Constitutional Convention that would codify the rights and responsibilities of the state and its citizens to each other. The provision of full healthcare services that provide timely diagnosis and immediate treatment could be written into a Constitution of the UK. This would make it illegal for Hospital beds and wards to be closed by managers of the NHS.

Q3) The policy is not acceptable. If there are excessive waiting times for treatment, there is insufficient capacity. Hospitals and staff numbers need to be increased.

Q4) Care closer to home to me means having Local Community Hospitals. My partner's mother is currently in South Molton hospital. Bideford Hospital has insufficient beds after the closure of a ward. Bideford Hospital should be providing the "Care closer to Home" because we live in Bideford and my partner's mother lives in Clovelly. We are able to visit only twice a week instead of every day because of the distance. Care in the home is not really adequate because a home is not designed/has the space for the necessary hospital equipment. Nor a family members trained in the use of the equipment.

Q5) The only government or council who would stop the ongoing "NHS Success Regime" is a LibDem council in conjunction with a LibDem (or a POSIWID*) government. A labour government would try to halt it but its policy of taxing the rich more heavily would result in "the rich" moving their money out of the country and impoverishing the NHS and the people even more than we are now. I do not hold much hope for the NHS if people vote for a Conservative government and do not bother to hold or take part in a Constitutional Convention.

Q6) The conflicts of interest as I see it is between two mutually exclusive concepts; Clinical Efficiency, which in my view means "Timely diagnosis followed by immediate treatment" and Market Efficiency, which in the NHS

context means minimising costs by in the long run, making people pay privately for their healthcare.

*POSIWID government. I would have to form a POSIWID political party for this to happen at the next election in 5 years time. In the meantime I am trying to persuade the LibDem party to adopt POSIWID policies.

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