

Let me say to start with that I'm 100% behind your organisation and totally admire what you've achieved so far.

- 1) The STP scheme is a smokescreen for Tory cuts. NHS funding should be increasing to bring it up at least to the level of the West European average, as it briefly was under the Blair government. The County Council could have been much more active in it's opposition - it must reject the STP plan out of hand.
- 2) All hospitals in the country should be properly funded (see above) especially ones that serve remote rural areas.
- 3) Cutting beds is totally unacceptable. We know from personal experience that Exeter hospital is already full, and the staff there are panicking about the increase in patients if Barnstaple hospital loses even more services.
- 4) 'Moving care closer to home' is another synonym for 'cuts'. Everybody, apart from the Tory party, accepts that Social Care AND the NHS are seriously underfunded.
- 5) All means possible must be used to enforce the County Council vote. Unfortunately, the system of hands-off healthcare introduced by the Tory/LibDem coalition has severely reduced the democratic accountability of the NHS.
- 6) It cannot be right that people with a financial stake in the outcome have any say in the decision-making.
- 7) No-one has any confidence in the independence and objectivity of the STP process, and it is disgraceful that public officials should be able to hide behind 'confidentiality' clauses. Maximum transparency is required. It is our tax money, and our health service.
- 8) Yes, I am completely with SOHS on this issue. My literature mentions the closure of beds at the Tyrrell Hospital in Ilfracombe as an example of broken promises by the STP team.

**Toby Ebert**