

SAVE THE IRREPLACEABLE TORRINGTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

S T I T C H

www.stitch.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

Torrington was the first town to have a *Care Closer to Home* system of healthcare imposed on it. The corruption surrounding the consultation process prompted the community to send their case to Devon County Council's Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, for forwarding to the Secretary of State.

Local MP Geoffrey Cox stated that the approach and *"the manner in which the process of considering the future of Great Torrington's Community Hospital has been implemented have been fundamentally flawed and have failed to win the confidence of the community. In fact, if a textbook example of how not to go about the reform of health services in rural communities were needed, this is it."*

The Secretary of State's reply showed he had received 18 documents from the NHS. No documents were sent on behalf of Torrington. The STITCH campaign has since been informed that a 26 page report from the town, supported by 39 appendices of evidence, and 17 patient complaints outlining corrupt practices (the STITCH Report) was never sent to the Secretary of State.

Furthermore STITCH has learnt, that on the advice of the Devon County Council legal department, all of the Torrington evidence, which showed that the grounds for the consultation process had failed, was withheld. Torrington Town Council, Torridge District Council and the members of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee were not informed of this decision.

Torrington Town Council passed a unanimous resolution on 3 November to send the case back to the Secretary of State, on the grounds that the consultation was flawed, and that the town's evidence of the failure of the new service, and the corruption surrounding the consultation had not been sent.

This case has particular importance at the present time, as community hospitals across Devon are being threatened with closure. Leading Campaigner John Wardman said "It is ironic the "failed" system of 'Care Closer to Home' is being spread countywide by the "Success" Regime."

ENDS

Press Liaison

Dave Clinch Tel: 07887 650671 email: dpclinch@gmail.com

SAVE THE IRREPLACEABLE TORRINGTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

S T I T C H

www.stitch.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE (APPENDIX)
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Overview Committee
08 November 2016

These questions were asked of the above committee by STITCH campaigner Trish Martin.

1 Who exactly made the decision not to send the STITCH evidence of failures (*in the Care Closer to Home alternative which was trialled in the "Torrington Experiment"*) to the Secretary of State?
My insert in brackets

2 Why was that decision made?

3 Why were we only told last week that legal advice had been necessary?

She added

"The sick and vulnerable are still painfully suffering from the incompetence of this committee over our case.

The patients' seventeen stories, the appendices, the STITCH Report all must be submitted to the Secretary of State so that he can make a fully informed decision."

It was agreed overwhelmingly that

1 The committee submit the evidence from STITCH and the Torrington Town Council which was missing from the original submission to the Secretary of State and that

2 The local MP Geoffrey Cox be asked to refer the matter to the Secretary of State and arrange a meeting with representatives of STITCH and the Secretary of State.

Campaigner Anne Wardman said after the decision. "We in STITCH refuse to be fobbed off. We owe it to the people of Torrington."

Press Liaison

Dave Clinch Tel: 07887 650671 email: dpclinch@gmail.com