



No.15 - 17 December 2016

WELCOME

As we get into the run up to Christmas the SOHS diary is looking rather full for the early new year, and there is the Holsworthy event just before Christmas. For that reason, I am going to try to continue to produce Redlines on a weekly basis, but expect the next issue to be a little more light-hearted.

For some people, Christmas is not a happy time, and for those of us campaigning, we are mindful of those who have suffered health problems at Christmas. Certainly the new proposals would not make that situation any easier, and would add to the stress of those needing care over the holiday period. We are appreciative of those in the NHS who work during this time to keep us safe.

Subscriptions are trickling in even though for a lot of people attention may be diverted elsewhere, and we welcome new readers. We are also grateful to those of you who print and distribute Redlines to colleagues and friends, or those without computer access.

Material for future newsletters editor@sohs.co.uk by Thursday SOHS-Save Our Hospital Services (A non-party group whose aim is to campaign to protect our health services in North Devon)

Must Try Harder

End of Term Report on CCG Not Good

The reports are coming in and the results are less than satisfactory. The verdict is, "must try harder". Members of the public have been visiting the CCG Roadshows and have reported that CCG staff have been unable to provide answers to simple questions. Did they do their homework? Obviously not.

It would seem that the people who have been given the job of fronting the CCG Roadshows are ill-prepared to deal with most of the questions that are posed to them, and on some occasions they have clearly realised that what they are saying doesn't make sense. This is not surprising, as we know it doesn't make sense, and anybody who even takes more than a brief glance at the STP proposals will quickly realise that they are ill-conceived and inadequate.

Many of the questions raised centre around their "Care in the Community" (CiC) plan. The name changes on an almost daily basis, but the concept remains broadly the same. As we have observed before, the rosy picture delivered by the homey sounding name seems initially appealing. We all would prefer to be treated in our own bed, rather than in an anonymous hospital bed, which if the current overcrowding continues, we might have to share. However the STP plan does not provide any real

substance as to how this service is going to be delivered.

It is therefore not really surprising the CCG frontline staff are at a bit of a loss to know what to say, and their teachers have not given them the right instruction, because unfortunately the text book has not yet been written. It has not been written because it cannot be written. It is the health service equivalent of writing a book that proves 2 and 2 make 5. Of course it doesn't and common sense tells us so.

It is plain to see that CiC does not add up. It might make 5, but it certainly doesn't make 4. How can a health service that cannot provide adequate care in a hospital deliver adequate care at home? How can paying commercial firms, big businesses and shareholders be a cheaper way of providing care than giving it in a hospital? Where is the test model that shows the plan will work? Where is the data on which the conclusion has been based? Why do we need to choose this course, isn't there a better plan?

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What is the CCG?

The full title is NHS Northern Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group. Yes, you are probably best to stick to CCG. They are the group that is "responsible for commissioning, or buying, most healthcare services for the local population." According to their website they "are dedicated to the principles of the NHS – a universal service, free at the point of delivery, where the quality and safety of services is of utmost importance. We are determined to work with our local communities and other partners in our area, to improve people's health and make sure they are able to receive high quality, local services." They speak with forked tongue, as they are not upholding the principles of the NHS and they do not listen to the local community. The CCG is comprised of health service professionals. They are not independent and impartial, indeed they have very vested interests, and we will shortly be revealing our research detailing their compromised situations.

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These are just a few questions of the kind that will be asked by the ordinary sensible man. They may not have been considered by the CCG staff, but then they are paid not to ask questions. It also appears they are paid not to answer them as well.

We might be tempted to ask why staff have not been fully briefed. It might be just a slight administrative hiccup, although, thinking about it, their superiors are on very high salaries, presumably because they are so clever, so this is hard to understand. So maybe, just maybe, the frontline staff have been deliberately kept in the dark. After all, if they know nothing, they can't tell the public anything that the powers that be don't want them to know. Perhaps the frontline staff are just pawns in the game that is being played by those higher up in the chain of command.

Well here is the bad news for the CCG: it isn't working. SOHS and others are exposing the evil that is among us. The CCG may not know the answers, but fortunately we do, and we are meticulously chronicling and recording those answers, doing

our homework properly. Perhaps the CCG staff would like to study our materials, and then they would be better prepared.

Does CiC work? We have the answer, and early next year we will be publishing many testimonies that show that it does not. This is just part of the ongoing research that diligent SOHS members are uncovering. We are not *paid* to turn a blind eye, and we will deliver the facts.

Meanwhile, shortly in Redlines, we will be publishing a number of questions that you can ask the CCG. You won't get the answers of course, but they must be asked.

Don't forget that the deadline for your written response to CCG Your Future Care consultations is 6 January 2017.

SOHS Christmas Cards

There are still a few SOHS Christmas Cards available, although it is perhaps a little late for us to send them to you, so probably best to be picked up. You can collect from next to Green Lanes, Barnstaple, or we can deliver in Barnstaple. £3 for a pack of 10 including envelopes. It would be a shame to waste them as we hope they won't be needed next year! Contact webmaster@sohs.org.uk or ring Irene on 01271 342130 for availability.

Diary Dates

Visit our new diary page on the website. More dates, maps and pretty pictures!

Wednesday 21 December 18.00 – 20.30 CCG Public Consultation meeting Mackarness Hall, High Street, Honiton, EX14 1PG Register to guarantee a place; 01392 267 642 or email dccg.YourFutureCare@nhs.net

Thursday 22 December 09.30 – 11.30 CCG Your Future Care roadshow, Memorial Hall, North Road, Holsworthy, EX22 6DJ

Friday 23 December 12 noon Whitehall, London. STP protest, details last Redlines.

Wednesday 4 January 19.00 Northam, the Town Council public meeting with SOHS, also

Thursday 5 January, in the afternoon (time tbc) at Westward Ho!

Wednesday 11 January 19.00 SOHS general meeting, The Castle Centre, Castle Street, Barnstaple EX31 1DR

Friday 13 January Braunton, SOHS Public meeting (details to be confirmed later)

Monday 16 January South Molton SOHS Public meeting (details to be confirmed later)

Tuesday 17 January 19.00 Paignton Methodist Church, Palace Avenue, Paignton TQ3 3EQ

Wednesday 18 January Northam (provisional) SOHS Public meeting (details to be confirmed)

Thursday 19 January 10.00 – 13.00 Devon CC Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to question the STP team. Followed by normal Committee meeting from 14.00

Wednesday 25 January Holsworthy SOHS Public meeting (details to be confirmed later)

Saturday 28 January 20.00 - 22.00 Ricky Knight and Friends, benefit event for SOHS. The Plough Arts Centre, Torrington EX38 8HQ £7 from Box Office: 01805 624624 www.theploughartscentre.org

Saturday 28 January Hands Off Our NHS! D-Day March 11.00 · Gower St to Trafalgar Square

The image shows a Christmas card for SOHS. At the top is the SOHS logo (Save Our Hospital Services Devon). Below it is a photo of a young boy, Ricky Knight, playing a drum. The text on the card reads: "RICKY KNIGHT AND FRIENDS", "With special guest Jim Jones", "A Benefit for SOHS", "Keep the red line going - wear red on the night!", "Saturday 28 January 8pm", "All Tickets £7". At the bottom, it says "the plough ARTS CENTRE Great Torrington Box Office: 01805 624624" and "Box Office: 01805 624624 www.theploughartscentre.org.uk".

SOHS — More Than Just a Follower

Not all those supporting SOHS are active in working together. This is sometimes because they don't see a way to get involved, or it might be the feeling that others are doing so well, further help is not needed. This is not the case. We desperately need everyone to help and take part. If there is nothing apparent you can do, please email in and we will find something for you to do. It will be New Year soon, so go on, make a plan now that you will do as much as you can for this vital cause.

Now here's some stuff coming up in which you can play a part. Read on.

January is very busy with SOHS and other public meetings being held around the area. Help is needed with the SOHS meetings so please offer your help if you possibly can, whether with distributing information and generally publicising events, planning and helping on the day or attending any of the meetings.

Support is needed to publicise future public meetings, as well as to attend, particularly for the first two meetings in January:

Wednesday 4 January, 7pm Northam, the Town Council public meeting with SOHS also

Thursday 5 January, in the afternoon at Westward Ho!

Saturday 14 January 11 am to 5.30pm The People's Assembly at The Golden Lion Tap special guest speaker Steve Sweeney, a journalist on the Morning Star and an NHS campaigner. Come for all or part of the day and tell your own NHS stories

Future SOHS public meetings (details to be confirmed later):

Friday 13 January, 7pm Braunton Parish Hall,

Monday 16 January, the Assembly Rooms, South Molton,

Friday 20 January, Winkleigh

Wednesday 25 January, Memorial Hall in Holsworthy.

There may also be a further meeting at the Globe in Torrington before Ricky Knight's fundraiser on 28 January

Scrutiny Committee of DCC meets on **19 January** from 10am - 1pm to question the STP team.

Thursday 26 January, Phillip is hoping to arrange a meeting with the Bishop of Crediton (retired head of nursing).

In addition there are ongoing jobs. We still need help with producing Redlines, preparing copy for publication, some basic literacy skills needed. A volunteer is needed to help keep the diary, basic office skills should suffice. We could do with more people to work on research. This might be researching information on the Internet, or writing to groups/bodies with requests for facts. People with particular special skills are needed, skills such as drawing/art, photography, video, anything that might be used in the production of publicity. Even people with acting skills could come in useful, as there are several plans being considered for dramatic presentations. Public speakers would also be welcome, as we are getting increasing numbers of requests for speakers. Then there are still vacancies for Champions, people who represent SOHS in their community. Even if there is already a Champion in your area, you will still be welcome.

Please make sure that for 2017 you have committed yourself to some active support, and remember if you don't know what to do, let us know, and we will be able to find something that suits. You don't necessarily have to live in the area, or even leave your house to support SOHS. We have tasks for you!

11/12/16 watch Angela Pedder being evasive on Sunday politics with Peter Heaton Jones (see 48.30 on the run time) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b08401p5/sunday-politics-south-west-11122016>

Exeter City Council No Confidence Vote

At the Council meeting, Tuesday 13 December 2016, the City Council considered a motion put by Councillor Musgrave. The motion said:

"Exeter City Council notes that the Government requires 44 Footprint Areas across the UK to prepare NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans for their area which will:

i. Contribute to cuts of at least £2.5bn nationally this year, and £22bn within the next five years, to wipe out the NHS so-called financial deficit; and

ii. achieve this by implementing 'new models of care' that are set out in NHS England's *5-Year Forward View* (2014).

NHS bodies are severely limited in how they can oppose these cuts because they risk losing access to the £8bn NHS Transformation Fund.

However, local authorities are in an excellent position to make clear their complete opposition to the programme.

Exeter City Council therefore calls on Devon County Council to join together with other Councils and campaign groups to widely publicise the details of all proposed cuts and changes to local NHS services.

We further call on Devon County Council to refuse to sign up to any STP, until the local proposals have been subject to a full and proper consultation."

The motion was carried unanimously.

Holsworthy

N Devon CCG are holding a public "consultation" in Holsworthy Memorial Hall on the morning of the 22 December. Timed right just before Christmas!! But there has not been a lot of publicity (*a common trick - Ed*). SOHS members, please attend if you can as we would not want to disappoint the CCG.

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL UNANIMOUS VOTE TO 'PAUSE' STP

This Press Release was issued after DCC Vote

At its meeting on 8 December Devon County Council (DCC) voted unanimously in favour of two motions put by Councillor Brian Greenslade and Councillor Frank Biederman which, together, expressed the deep concern of the council about the impact of proposed cuts to Devon's Health Services as indicated in the *Sustainability and Transformation Plan* (STP) for Devon; a claim for fairer funding of these services and the need for local MPs to lobby government to this end.

Cllr. Greenslade points out that Devon County Council is the largest local authority in the South West and, alongside Cllr. Biederman insisted that they will "speak up for the people of Devon who are terrified by the implications of this flawed process..."

The *Save Our Hospital Services Devon* (SOHS Devon) campaign has been instrumental in bringing this issue to the Council Chamber via lobbying at town and district level, the *Health and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee*, public meetings and the *Red Line* and *Devon Sees Red* demonstrations in Barnstaple and Exeter.

In his address to the DCC on behalf of SOHS Devon Phillip Wearne said that the 'Success Regime' and the STP process headed by the same person in Angela Pedder, and operating with the same staff should be considered

as one and the same. The 'Success Regime'/NEW Devon Health Trust is "riddled with conflicts of interest and inherently unfair, especially for North Devon. In sum what is going on is an inside job." He then explained where these conflicts of interest exist and added "The SOHS Devon campaign is committed to preventing *any* cuts in our hospital services."

Liz Wood from the SOHS Devon campaign also addressed the council and identified the threat to acute services at *North Devon District Hospital* (NDDH), saying "In June Ruth Carnall came to Barnstaple armed with her contradictory and contestable *Case for Change* document – the product of her own independent healthcare consultancy. . . she and her 'Success Regime'/STP colleagues have stressed one thing: there are no red lines around any hospital services in Barnstaple. . . nothing is ruled out, they warn in concert. That 'nothing' includes all our acute services – consultant led maternity, paediatrics, neonatology and stroke."

The full texts of both the above speeches are available on request.

On 5 December Oxford City Council also rejected this process, noting that the former Head of NHS England's Commissioning Policy Unit, Julia Simon, has denounced the STP process as 'shameful', 'mad', 'ridiculous' and the plans as 'full of lies'.

Journey time research, help needed please!

Sarah Logan is collecting information on journey times from North Devon to the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital in Exeter. She has already obtained a collision report from DCC Safer Travel showing 50 collisions over 5 years, just on the link road between Barnstaple and Bolham Roundabout, and has average monthly traffic flow documents to back up what we all say about heavy traffic in the summer (thank you DCC Highways). This also shows some road closures but still needs more info on traffic lights, temporary hold-ups etc. Next thing to do is plot predicted journey times against actual journey times. Actual times will need to come from members of the public so if you have an appointment at the RD&E then you can help.

Sarah needs the following information: your postcode, date and time you left your front door, date and time arrived at RD&E main entrance, journey time, mode of transport (cycle, motorbike, car, taxi, HGV, train, bus, ambulance). The data will be anonymous, so your name will not be included, but it has to be accurate to be included!

The data received will be collated into a document that should prove the journey times are unpredictable. It will need a lot of data to make this work, so if anyone can spread the word about the data collection that will be great! Tell friends, share this information, phone up local radio, talk to the press, at meetings, etc.

Send your data via Facebook personal message to Sarah Logan or email to anothersassyl@hotmail.com. By sending your data you consent to it being shared publicly to aid SOHS.

Barnstaple company Actavis UK accused of overcharging the NHS for a 'lifesaving' drug
<http://www.northdevonjournal.co.uk/actavis-uk-accused-of-overcharging-the-nhs-for-a-lifesaving-drug/story-29988390-detail/story.html>



Ilfracombe Santa shows off his SOHS float. Thanks for your support, Santa!