

Good Morning Madam Chair and Members - 21-06-2022

Last week Amanda Pritchard, Head of NHS England said:

“We need to review how we right-size our capacity across the NHS. That will of course look at the whole picture of hospital, community and virtual capacity.”

We think this is relevant because we need to address whether the CCGs planned provision for our area stands up to system resilience as directed by the Secretary of State in his referral last November.

We don't think it does for the following reasons:

- If we need to 'right-size' – that is scale up – NHS bed capacity, why is the CCG pressing ahead with closing community beds in Devon?
- The University of Plymouth team did not formally evaluate if the Trust had delivered on its commitment in the “2016 model of care”.
- The Care Quality Commission's inspection on 1st December 2021 rated Torbay Hospital as 'Requiring Improvement'.
- The CQC stated **again** that Torbay Hospital must 'ensure that the high readmission rates and rates of patients leaving before being seen are audited and investigated'
- Torbay was the first acute hospital to go into OPEL 4 last winter because of the lack of bed capacity.
- Ambulances frequently can't discharge patients on arrival at A&E.
- There is a crisis in recruiting carers.
- The cost benefit analyses for the Health and Wellbeing Centre is still required.
- Spending £8 million pounds of taxpayers' money when there are other cheaper and better options needs addressing.

I quote from your Spotlight Review, which concluded that the proposed closure of Teignmouth Hospital was not in the best interests of the population of the area, because as you stated'

'There was no systematic evaluative research co-produced by clinicians, professionals and service users that presents clear evidence of success (using quantitative and qualitative methodology) to support this extensive change proposed.

I therefore ask you on behalf of the elderly, the frail and the vulnerable: Do we really have enough system resilience now and for the future? If your answer is “No” then please refer this case back to the Secretary of State so that he can take up the offer from the IRP to re-examine the evidence under medical grounds as to whether this change in medical services provision is in the best interest of our health needs.

Thank you for listening and if you want any further information our Freedom of Information requests back up every statement we have made.