

David Halpin -DCC H&SC Scrutiny Committee 21-06-2022

Your decision in this must be made in the widest context. You have my observations and analysis in three papers. Some key points.

As we sit here in comfort, the A&E departments in the 240 District Hospitals are crammed with distressed fellow citizens subject to poor health education. The doctors will be trying to find beds for very sick patients. Ward staff and social workers will be trying to find places into which to transfer recovering patients. Some of these should be receiving skilled and loving care in a Community Hospital.

OUR NHS has been a political football for decades. Each of the three main parties has done harm to it. In my time there were about eight convulsions of 'management' - almost all adding complexity and damaging to morale. Whilst we worked on.

A group of GPs, the CCG, one facet of the 2012 April 1st Act, finally called for closure of Teignmouth Hospital, tacitly assuming that the capital gain from selling this key site would pay for the nonsense in Brunswick Street. An £8 million medical bureaucracy with one of two general practices wishing to occupy it!

The standards of care in OUR NHS have fallen badly but many good specialists remain. Search 'halpin surgeon' and put 'dyer' in my search engine. These two open letters record the worst care of 8 patients – 6 at Torbay and 2 at the RD&E, one of the latter being our eldest grand daughter Isabel. The first case – Jean Owen, represents the most abysmal lack of care in diagnosis and treatment I have ever seen.

The extinction of the family doctor – with 24 hour responsibility in 2006 is fundamental to the many failings since then. The chaos outside and inside the DGHs is in large part due to this.

111 a black comedy.

The plan for a bureaucracy in the congested centre of Teignmouth is frankly obscene. 'Telemedicine' is being thrust upon a suffering populace. It is unethical and cruel for the first consultation with a doctor not to be face to face. Patients are lifted up when a doctor listens well to the patient and examines them properly. Hands and caring minds heal. And I add – are both general practices signed up to inhabit it?

Your referral again to Mr Javid might turn the tide for our Community Hospitals – nationally. That will help the re-building of the NHS, so central to our country's spirit.

'To care is the most important characteristic of any worthwhile society'.

David Halpin MB BS FRCS

