

## NORTH SHROPSHIRE NHS Survey Results

We received responses from **Graeme Currie (Labour)** and **Duncan Kerr (Green)**<sup>1</sup>.

We did not receive responses from **Owen Paterson (Conservative)** or **Tom Thornhill (Liberal Democrat)**.

We asked candidates:

### WILL YOU

1. **Stand up for health care by demanding an end to the continued under-funding of NHS budgets and social care?**

**The King's Fund notes that the NHS is enduring the most prolonged funding squeeze in its history; that the government has misrepresented the level of funding for health care; and that the NHS can no longer maintain quality of care and meet performance standards with its current budget.**

Both **Graeme Currie** and **Duncan Kerr** responded 'Yes'.

**Graeme Currie** added '*Labour will invest in our NHS, to give patients the modern, well-resourced services they need for the 21st century. Labour will ensure that NHS patients get the world-class quality of care they need and that staff are able to deliver the standards that patients expect.*'

**Duncan Kerr** added '*Green Party policy is to increase spending on the NHS to match the European average as a proportion of GDP. We need to also reverse the massive cuts in health promotion.*'

2. **Demand no less than the investment called for by NHS Providers in their own manifesto to political parties i.e. an extra £5bn per year NHS funding for the next 3 years, plus £10bn capital, as the minimum required to maintain existing standards and services?**

Both **Graeme Currie** and **Duncan Kerr** responded 'Yes'.

**Graeme Currie** added '*A Labour Government will commit to over £30 billion extra funding over next parliament.*'

3. **Campaign with the community in your constituency against any reduction in local access to health services?**

**Local issues currently include: at least £125 million planned savings a year to NHS spending in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin, the loss of an A&E and acute hospital to save £19 million a year, the likely loss of**

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<sup>1</sup> Candidates are listed here in the order in which they responded

the Women's and Children's Centre at Telford, £3.8 million cuts to community hospitals (including closure threats to inpatient beds and Minor Injuries Units), planned downgrading or closure of rural Maternity Units to save £980,000 a year, increased rationing of hip and knee replacement surgery, the closure without consultation of two valued mental health services at the end of March, the gathering crisis in GP services and social care, and the pretence that 'resilient communities' can cover for deep cuts in NHS and social care services.

Both **Graeme Currie** and **Duncan Kerr** responded 'Yes'.

**Graeme Currie** added '*I will fight to save our NHS. We must retain our two A&E departments and local maternity units here in Shropshire.*'

**Duncan Kerr** added '*As you know I led the formation of Oswestry defend our NHS.*'

**4. Support improved funding for mental health and learning disability services in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin?**

Mental health is supposedly an NHS England priority – yet our local provider SSSFT made in-year savings of £6.7 million last year, with a target of a further £8.7 million savings this year. Staff tell us that the combination of NHS cuts and social care cuts is already having a profoundly damaging impact on service users.

Both **Graeme Currie** and **Duncan Kerr** responded 'Yes'.

**5. Campaign for new legislation to reinstate a publicly owned and run NHS, and to end the £4.5 to £10 bn currently spent each year on commissioning, management consultants and private sector profits instead of patient care?**

Both **Graeme Currie** and **Duncan Kerr** responded 'Yes'.

**Graeme Currie** added '*The next Labour government will reverse privatisation of our NHS and return our health service into expert public control. Labour will repeal the Health and Social Care Act that puts profits before patients, and make the NHS the preferred provider. We will reinstate the powers of the Secretary of State for Health to have overall responsibility for the NHS. Labour will halt and review the NHS 'Sustainability and Transformation Plans', which are looking at closing health services across England, and ask local people to participate in the redrawing of plans with a focus on patient need rather than available finances. We will create a new quality, safety and excellence regulator – to be called 'NHS Excellence.'*'

**6. End the 1% cap on NHS pay increases, restore NHS bursaries for nurses and health professionals, and legislate for safe staffing levels in health care?**

Both **Graeme Currie** and **Duncan Kerr** responded 'Yes'.

**Graeme Currie** added '*Labour will scrap the NHS pay cap, put pay decisions back into the hands of the independent pay review body and give our NHS workers the pay they deserve. Labour will protect patients and legislate to ensure safe staffing levels in the NHS.*'

**We also asked candidates if there was anything else they wished to add.**

**Graeme Currie** commented '*Vote for Hope, Vote Labour to Save the NHS!*'

**Duncan Kerr** commented '*Integration of health and social care and full funding of social care without requiring contributions.*'