

## TELFORD NHS Survey Results

We received responses from **Kuldip Sahota (Labour)** and **Luke Shirley (Green)**<sup>1</sup>.

**Lucy Allan (Conservative)** did not complete the survey, although she sent us a separate letter outlining Government policy on the NHS. Lucy also stated *'I am delighted that the 24 hour A&E and the Women and Children's Services will remain in Telford'*. We believe this to be an incorrect analysis. The current 'preferred option' of local NHS decision makers is for a single (and much smaller) A&E to be based at Shrewsbury, and for the Obstetric Unit, children's inpatient beds, and acute gynaecological care to be moved from Telford to Shrewsbury.

Telford's Princess Royal Hospital is intended to have an Urgent Care Centre or Accident and Urgent Care Centre rather than an A&E – a very different and reduced service, run by nurses and GPs rather than Emergency Consultants. The Women's and Children's Centre would presumably keep the sign on the door, but would be reduced to a midwife-led maternity unit and some outpatient appointments for women and children.

We were unable to find publicly available contact information for **Susan King (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 **Kuldip Sahota** and **Luke Shirley** responded 'Yes'.

**Luke Shirley** added *'The NHS is chronically underfunded and it has been left under resourced creating stress and pressure on staff'*.

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 **Kuldip Sahota** and **Luke Shirley** responded 'Yes'.

---

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

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 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 **Kuldip Sahota** and **Luke Shirley** responded 'Yes'.

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 **Kuldip Sahota** and **Luke Shirley** 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 **Kuldip Sahota** and **Luke Shirley** responded 'Yes'.

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 **Kuldip Sahota** and **Luke Shirley** responded 'Yes'.

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

**Luke Shirley** commented *'The Green Party has been at the forefront of the campaign to protect the NHS in the local area. This is clearly the biggest issue for residents in the local area.'*