

THE WREKIN NHS Survey Results

We received responses from **Fay Easton (Independent)**, **Rod Keyes (Liberal Democrat)**, **Dylan Harrison (Labour)**, and **Pat McCarthy (Green)**¹.

We did not receive responses from **Mark Pritchard (Conservative)** or **Denis Allen (UKIP)**.

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.

All candidates who completed the survey – **Fay Easton, Rod Keyes, Dylan Harrison** and **Pat McCarthy** - responded 'Yes'.

Dylan Harrison added *'I have over 10 years experience of working in the NHS. Over the last 7 years I have seen funding reduce and the service to the public decline correspondingly.'*

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?**

Fay Easton, Dylan Harrison and **Pat McCarthy** responded 'Yes'.

Dylan Harrison added *'Labour has committed to £30 bn over the life of the next parliament which is the minimum needed.'*

Rod Keyes responded 'Unsure'. He added *'no blank cheques, need to examine demands more closely.'*

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

¹ Candidates are listed here in the order in which they responded

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.

Fay Easton, Dylan Harrison and Pat McCarthy responded 'Yes'.

Dylan Harrison added '*The local health services are in a shocking state requiring urgent investment. And FutureFit needs to go in the bin.*'

Rod Keyes responded 'Unsure'. He added '*not all your predictions will necessarily come to fruition. These issues were on the table in 2015. Whilsy obviously concerned with the PRH facilities, one has to look at the whole of Shropshire as well.*'

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.

All candidates who completed the survey – **Fay Easton, Rod Keyes, Dylan Harrison** and **Pat McCarthy** – responded 'Yes'.

Dylan Harrison added '*Mental health and learning disability services are well known as the Cinderella services. This needs to end. It's a scandal that the recommendations from the enquiry into Winterbourne View have still not been implemented.*'

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?

Fay Easton, Dylan Harrison and Pat McCarthy responded 'Yes'.

Dylan Harrison added '*Yes I believe in the complete nationalisation of NHS services.*'

Rod Keyes responded 'Unsure'. He added '*Not all Private spending is "bad". I would look to the Private sector to reciover monies owed to NHS England in genera and the NHS is Shropshire in particular. For example the recovery of payments from visitors to the UK treated for free but not entitled, from Insurance Companies in respect of RTCs and from NHS Wales for patients treated from the Welsh Borders. No medical staff needed for this.*'

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?

All candidates who completed the survey – **Fay Easton**, **Rod Keyes**, **Dylan Harrison** and **Pat McCarthy** – responded 'Yes'.

Rod Keyes added '*These are all Lib Dem policies and in the manifesto.*'

Dylan Harrison added '*They need and deserve a decent pay rise.*'

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

Fay Easton commented '*Population increases predicted at circa 10% over the coming decade in Telford/Shropshire needs additional services and investment, not less or even 'standstill'. Reports of nurses using FoodBanks must concern every 'party/independent' candidate.*'

Rod Keyes commented '*This is an improvement on the questionnaire you sent out in respect of the Local Elections.*'