

Appendix viii

Other options proposed by the public via the consultation

The following options were proposed during the consultation meetings and via correspondence:

- Use the £300,000 generously offered by the League of Friends to hire temporary nurses to fill staffing gap until the CCG makes its decision.
- Use volunteer nurses to address staffing needs.
- Increase bed numbers to 14 or 16 beds at both hospitals, rather than 18, which would address the issues of de-skilling but would not be as expensive as 18 beds.
- Run both hospitals as one unit - sharing staff and having some functions at one site, others at the other site. Use peripatetic nurses to run between both sites.
- Employ more HCAs to support the RNs and ensure they do not feel alone.
- Use a rota of local GPs to support RNs and eradicate lone working at the hospital.
- Consider taking private patients to bolster numbers and justify additional staffing, or consider setting up as a social enterprise.
- Consolidate beds at Axminster and use Seaton for another purpose – e.g. a nursing home or a residential mental health unit.
- Reduce admin staff and put in auxiliary nurses.
- Wait until the contract ends and let another organisation have a go.
- Conduct better publicity of the vacancies.
- Tell the Government you need more money or wait until the general election, when all parties have said funding to the NHS will increase.
- All three parties – the CCG, NDHT and RD&E – work better together to solve this.
- Merge Axminster hospital with GP practice.