

Report to Saltash Town Council

Healthcare Action Group

The Action Group met on 17 January, and is due to meet again at the end of February. We are grateful that the Town Council continues to give unfailing support to our meetings and work. This includes the creation of a display about the "Patients First" Vision in the Library, and the expectation that we may organise some events there in the coming months.

Implementing the Vision nevertheless continues to be greatly hindered by organisational changes at the Cornwall Integrated Care Board (which finances NHS services). These have not been finalised despite being months overdue. Dr Sant helps when he can, but we have no-one to replace him. One thing he has told us is that the underspend in the NHS dental services budget will not now be available to fund the creative initiative for the town that we have had in mind - but we will pursue this for the next financial year. The ICB seems to be sitting back and doing nothing about the scandalous lack of provision for dental health. This is a leadership void.

Lack of local NHS leadership in Cornwall Partnership Trust also continues to add to this blight, and attendance of NHS representatives at the Action Group has, not surprisingly, fallen off significantly. In addition, the Mayor reported at the last meeting that he has not received a satisfactory response to the letters he wrote at the end of 2023 to

- The Chair and Chief Executive of the Cornwall Partnership Trust (which is responsible for community hospitals and community health services, eg District Nursing)
- The Chair and Chief Executive of the CIOS Integrated Care Board

If there is no progress soon, the Action Group decided that we will have to call a public meeting, and seek publicity about the local NHS failures. It adds insult to injury that we hear reports of

- the success of the Bodmin Community Diagnostics Centre in meeting massive demand for locally convenient services for patients (!), and additional multi-use clinical facilities are to open soon,
- the start of new builds at St Austell (to provide elective surgery, £15m) and at Camborne (for stroke rehabilitation), and
- modernisation of X-Ray and scanning at Penzance

On the positive side, the Action Group heard that progress is being made by local people on the plans to redevelop Saltash Health Centre: and also that multi-disciplinary teamwork is now well established in dealing with patients with the most complex needs, inc hospital discharges.

George Muirhead
Peter Thistlethwaite

PPG Chairs

22 January 2023