

Health Action Group - Progress Report to Saltash Town Council

The meeting on 24 July was devoted to a presentation by the Place Director - North & East Cornwall of the Integrated Care Board (ICB), which is strategic commissioner of health care services in Cornwall. The new Director is called Tryphaena Doyle, and we had put to her in advance our short and long term priorities for healthcare in the town:

- immediate action to bring St Barnabas into full use, especially by relocating services from Derriford for more convenient access by local patients - eg dressings, scans, OP clinics, minor injuries, blood tests, etc
- action to commit to short-term recovery beds becoming available in the town again, say via a contract with a local care/nursing home provider
- urgent action to improve local NHS dental services
- binding commitment to the long term plan to redevelop Saltash Health Centre, including a wider range of NHS primary and community services in a Health & Wellbeing Hub

I think it is fair to say that Tryphaena's inputs were very clear and impressive - giving confidence that she is supportive of the Vision which we have developed. For the first time, we received data specifically about Saltash needs and services, and more was promised. A positive discussion followed, and it became clear that the ICB's approach does mirror and complement what we have recently heard from the Derriford team - a push for more "care closer to home".

One extra piece of news is that, following the presentation from the team at Derriford Hospital in June, a joint site visit to St Barnabas Hospital by the various NHS partners is shortly to take place. This is to assess how the available space there might be put to use to enhance local services. It has taken 18 months to reach this point, but maybe the Action Group is now getting somewhere? We seem to have got the key players talking to each other about what is needed here.

NB A copy of Tryphaena's presentation is available.

Peter Thistlethwaite
Chair, Port View Surgery Patient Group