

Health Action Group - Progress Report to Saltash Town Council

The Group met in the Council Chamber on 27 November to receive a report back from the ICB's Tryphaena Doyle, the local Director for North & East Cornwall. Also present was Paula Varndell Dawes of the East Cornwall Primary Care Network. They both appear to be acting positively on our behalf, and progress seemed encouraging - even though time will be needed for many initiatives to come to pass. However, work is well under way to relocate blood testing from Plymouth to Saltash; an "overspill" hub for the 2 Practices is now available once a week at St Barnabas, providing extra appointments; and an AI system for identifying the most "at risk" patients, who can then benefit from early intervention, is likely to be introduced here.

The Action Group is therefore broadly supportive of the strategy which Tryphaena is driving, and she is clear that she feels accountable to the community for her work - a refreshingly open stance. We will meet her again on January 15, together with her opposite numbers from Derriford Hospital.

Other matters:

- The Mayor reported that local primary schools will soon benefit from dental support following pressure from CAP
- On wider dental provision, Tryphaena will investigate whether use of budget underspend can be considered for boosting NHS services in the town
- A community "winter health event" is being offered by the ICB locally early in the New Year, and this was welcomed by the Group. Is it possible for the Council to provide a building for this, and help promote it?

Finally, I attach a note of the changes agreed at the AGM of the League of Friends of St Barnabas Hospital. There will be a change of name, and a transformation of the current charity from a focus on the hospital into a wider healthcare charity for the town. The new chair, Matt Lindeyer, confirmed that the charity would engage with the public to promote its work at the forthcoming "health event". **If town councillors have ideas for a project that the charity could undertake, please let us know.**

Peter Thistlethwaite
Chair, Port View Patient Group

27 November 2024