

## **Health Action Group - Progress Report to Saltash Town Council**

In our last report in July, I advised members of the Council not to hold their breath about progress from various NHS bodies on the two main projects the Health Action Group is working on:

- Local blood testing at St Barnabas Hospital
- Refurbishment of the Day Room at the rear of the Hospital to modern clinical standards to provide a multi-purpose community health facility

It appears that the various NHS bodies still cannot achieve the simple task of setting up the blood testing service - although the money is available for a 6-month trial, and the former Minor Injuries room has been deemed a suitable location. The main barrier seems to be establishing an online booking system - which these days cannot be “rocket science”! We also don’t know if staff can be recruited (although it is said that staff of the phlebotomy facility at Windsor House in Plymouth seem to be aware that they may be asked to work at St Barnabas).

Also incredibly, NHS Property Services have still not provided a quotation for the refurbishment work. We are chasing this. The funding for the refurbishment is available from the Cornwall Foundation Trust. This could be supplemented, if necessary, by our own local charity, the St Barnabas Charity for Community Healthcare, and/or from the proceeds of the sale of Peninsula House by NHS Property Services.

In summary, it is nothing short of a scandal that the individual bodies that comprise the NHS cannot work together well enough on behalf of patients and communities.

In recent months the dynamic of the Action Group has changed. Originally hosted and chaired by the Town Council, and organised by the two local Patient Participation Groups, leadership has now been taken on by Tryphaena Doyle who is the commissioner of healthcare services for North and East Cornwall. We are in good hands, however. Tryphaena prefers to have short online “check-in” meetings to chase progress, and we all believe she is pursuing the goals strongly on our behalf.

Our next meeting takes place on October 8. Fingers crossed that we have some definite solutions by then.

Peter Thistlethwaite  
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September 18 2025

**End of Report.**