

Health Action Group - Progress Report to Saltash Town Council

Last month 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

No final solutions have been offered by the NHS bodies responsible, so we are hoping to receive final proposals on November 18, our next meeting. The blood testing is now at the stage of testing the booking system; and some, but not all, of the quotations for the work at St Barnabas have been received.

A new development, however, is a project across SE Cornwall to develop “neighbourhood care”. This is funded by the Cornwall Integrated Care Board, and the project will be led by a GP from Torpoint. We welcome this. As usual, this locality is the last in Cornwall to benefit from this initiative which has been operating elsewhere throughout the year. We have always thought that there was a lack of enthusiasm for the project from our local Surgeries, but now that they are both over the worst of their staff shortages, they seem keen to join in. That has come as a relief. More news on what this will mean for local patients in due course, but it seems obvious that having the extra facility at St Barnabas must help with more locally based services.

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