

Health Action Group meeting with SE Cornwall MP

14th September 2026

Present: George Muirhead, Chair (GM), Peter Thistlethwaite (PT), Brian Stoyel (BS), Hilary Frank (HF), Richard Bickford (RB), Jane Suter (JS), Anna Gelderd (AG), Kayleigh Dring (KD).

	Action
The Chairman welcomed everyone and clarified the items to be discussed including: phlebotomy, St Barnabas and dentistry.	
1. Overview PT gave a brief history of St Barnabas culminating with the closure of all beds, without warning, in 2016. Liskeard currently has a 50-bed hospital although it is half empty at the moment. The GP surgery in Torpoint provides general medical, nursing, and specialist clinic services plus treatments and minor surgery. Saltash seems to fall between Plymouth and Cornwall. AG is aware that Derriford Hospital wants to do more out in the community and also that Liskeard needs some support. How do we look at what facilities we can deliver for Saltash that would make a difference, acknowledging things that were taken away?	
2. Phlebotomy The room at St Barnabas is equipped ready to bring phlebotomy back to Saltash. This could benefit patients from the whole of South East Cornwall who are currently having to travel over the bridge. However, the booking system with an option for patients to choose St Barnabas is still under review. GM was informed of a two month wait for IT issues to be looked at. In July GM wrote to ask if we were on the list, but had no response. HF queried why we have to 'piggyback' on the Windsor House system. GM will feed back to AG the outcome of the St Barnabas Project meeting on 23rd. AG agreed to pursue two questions: Where are we on the queue list? Why do we have to 'piggyback'?	GM AG
3. St Barnabas There is a significant fund from local people (£130k), some of which was used to renovate the phlebotomy room, which could be used to transform the old day room into a useful space. AG is aware that Tryphaena Doyle, is in contact with Derriford Hospital and Cornwall Foundation Trust looking for providers of interest. GM/PT had ideas about physiotherapy in the downstairs room and will get back to HAG. It is recognised that NHS Property Services are the big sticking point and AG agreed to ask NHSPS how we can move forward with the project for the downstairs room at St Barnabas. GM and PT are meeting Tryphaena on 23th September. They will establish whether she has made any progress with potential providers and update AG.	AG GM/PT
4. Peninsula House £100,000 for health resources in Saltash was promised by NHS Property Services Regional Director James Page following the sale of Peninsula House. The sale took place two years ago but, following a recent enquiry, AG was told it will still be 3-6 months before a decision is made. AG will request a phone call.	AG

5. Dentistry

A date for AG's meeting with the new Minister has been set.

AG said the new dental contract talks about quality of care not just quantity. Dentists will be paid more for more intricate treatments. Retention remains an issue along with college places and training, all of which take time. Emergency provision is needed.

AG will ask the new Minister:

Has the BDA accepted the new contract?

Could the cap on number of students at Plymouth Dental School be raised?

GM thanked everyone for attending. He will update AG following the meeting with Tryphaena Doyle on 23rd September. AG to update HAG on the outcome of her actions.

SL/17.09.26.

AG