



Konsel An Dre Essa

14 June 2023

Kate Shields
Chief Executive
Cornwall & IOS Integrated Care System

Dear Kate

I am writing on behalf of the Healthcare Action Group for Saltash in the hope that you can lend understanding and practical support to the initiative.

Our meetings are being hosted and co-chaired by the Town Council, and coordinated by the chairs of the PPGs of Port View Surgery and Saltash Health Centre. The group is dedicated to ensuring the best health outcomes for Saltash patients and is a patient-led and community based group. We know and understand the needs of the patients. Members include 4 local Councillors, the Managers of the GP Practices, the chair of the St Barnabas Hospital League of Friends, a senior manager of CPFT, and Dr Andy Sant.

We have been very encouraged by the proactive, positive encouragement and support Andy has provided to the Action Group. Andy most clearly understands the importance of the voice of patients and communities, and the consequent need to develop Health strategies based on local knowledge and understanding. We do feel that with this support we can improve health outcomes for the patients of Saltash.

However, progress is being frustrated because the group cannot obtain all the data necessary to create an evidence-based Healthcare plan for the town. So, it would be helpful if you could intervene from your position to facilitate the provision of information we have been trying for months to acquire:

1. The pattern of NHS-funded care in hospitals and nursing homes for Saltash area people who have been unable to have care and rehabilitation locally since St Barnabas Hospital beds and MIU were closed "temporarily" by the Trust in 2016 without warning. (This matter is a massive grievance in the town.)
2. The current use of St Barnabas Hospital for out-patients in terms of the availability of clinics, patients seen and, crucially, whether these local clinics are being considered after referral by GPs. Similarly, whether services like ultrasound could be made available locally?
3. Demands made on A&E at UHP and the Cumberland Centre since the loss of the MIU which could be met appropriately in the town itself - we have been told that this is a significant proportion.



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We feel sure you would want to support us and Andy in achieving these aims and look forward to your response. You would, of course, be welcome to join us in the town to see first hand what we are trying to overcome and achieve.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Richard Bickford
Mayor of Saltash 2023 - 2024



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