

Progress Report from the Healthcare Action Group, September 2023

The **Action Group** was formed at the start of this year in belated response to (1) the disinvestment in local health services in 2016 through the sudden closure of beds and minor injuries services at St Barnabas Hospital and, more recently, (2) the negative impact on local services of national pressures in the NHS.

Our membership includes all the key NHS bodies locally, but is organised and led by representatives of the community and patients. This progress report is supported unanimously.

Mission

The Group exists to ensure health and wellbeing services are fit for purpose for residents of all ages in a town whose population is growing. It also provides a regular forum to share good practice between services, identify need, improve collaboration and ensure that the patient voice is central to all decision making.

Progress so far

- Enhanced communication and cooperation between the Saltash Health Centre and Port View Surgery, including links with Pharmacies
- New ways of working between community nursing teams and the GP Practices to ensure fully coordinated care for individual patients and carers
- Extra specialist support to the Practices through the East Cornwall Primary Care Network (PCN)
- Ongoing re-appraisal of NHS buildings in the town through engagement of NHS property specialists, with the aim of securing funds for improvements, and reinvestments in the town if any are ultimately to be sold
- Revealing the range of services and clinics still potentially available at St Barnabas Hospital, which are now about to be promoted to the public, and extended where possible

Goals we are continuing to work on

- Finalising plans to improve the NHS buildings of the town in the short term, to include taking any opportunity to bring NHS funded beds back into the town. Ultimately to develop a medium-term plan to replace St Barnabas Hospital with a 21st century facility, for which we are identifying options for capital funding
- Promoting and extending the current range of services at St Barnabas, including more outpatient clinics and community diagnostic services, which we hope will lead to the development of a wide range of radiology services in the town (X-Rays and ultrasound) in partnership with Derriford Hospital.
- Increasing awareness by Saltash residents of the health and wellbeing services available in the town, and how to access them direct or through GP Practices (eg clinical pharmacists, physiotherapy, mental health practitioners and social prescribers).

- Furthering the work of integrated teams from Primary and Community Care to the benefit of our most vulnerable patients and carers, with more care and support being offered in or close to people's homes, rather than in hospital.
- Taking any opportunity to re-establish NHS dental services in the town - constrained as this is by unresolved national issues
- Reviewing provision for children's health and development

Feedback from you

We need and welcome the continuing engagement of the citizens of Saltash in our work, both as individuals and community groups. Please comment now. Also let us know your personal experiences of healthcare locally, good or bad.

- You can email us direct at patient.voice@icloud.com
 - You can post comments on the Voice of Saltash Patients Facebook page
 - You can approach the Patient Participation Groups at the Saltash Health Centre and Port View Surgery
 - You can speak to your local councillor
- **And please watch out for details of a consultative event which we hope to be organising soon for the specific purpose of hearing your views, and discussing them with you**

Bodies with representatives in the Action Group

1. **NHS** - Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board (ICB), Cornwall Partnership Trust (CFT), East Cornwall Primary Care Network (PCN), Saltash Health Centre, Port View Surgery
2. **Community** - Saltash Town Council, Cornwall Council, Friends of St Barnabas Hospital, Patient Participations Groups at Saltash Health Centre and Port View Surgery