PRESS RELEASE From SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL

Extracts from an email from the Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, dated 1st February 2017:

A review of staffing at all Cornwall's community hospitals has revealed that Liskeard Hospital and Liskeard MIU have particular challenges recruiting Registered Nurses.

To ensure patient safety and to maintain appropriate staff to patient ratios it has been decided to temporarily consolidate nursing resources from St Barnabas onto one site at Liskeard Hospital for three months while further recruitment efforts continue.

Outpatient services will continue to be provided at St Barnabas through the temporary closure.

The Town Council is dismayed that the needs of Saltash residents are being neglected. Historically, health care provision has favoured the Liskeard area over Saltash, and these temporary closures at St Barnabas will only exacerbate that imbalance. The Town Council cannot accept that a Cornish town of our size should be deprived of such vital services, and asks citizens to sign the petition that is available at Saltash Guildhall calling for 'the urgent reopening of beds in St. Barnabas Community Hospital and the re-establishment of a fully-functioning MIU service in Saltash.'