

No Health Cuts!

Waltham Forest campaign is on the streets to save our health services and to keep the NHS public - Join us!

Fears for the future of Whipps Cross Hospital

Reports that Whipps Cross Hospital may close have hit the front pages of our local papers. Hospital Trust officials say there is no such plan. But the hospital is under severe strain and the government has set impossible savings targets nearly one third of its total budget – report over the page



- ~ **£48 million cuts** to our hospital and community health services
- ~ **5 wards to close, 107 beds,**
- ~ **400 hospital jobs cut , 276 staff to be made redundant**
- ~ **Out patient appointments cut by 17,303**
- ~ **Highest health needs** in London but fewest hospital doctors and nurses

~ What you can do ~

Lobby of Council Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 14th September, 7.30 pm

Walthamstow Town Hall, Forest Road, E17

Help build the campaign -
Come to next meeting
Waltham Forest Keep our
NHS Public

Monday 4th September, 7.30 pm
Quaker Meeting House, Jewel Rd,
Walthamstow E17. Meet others, hear the
latest developments, bring your suggestions

Hospital Support Workers Strike

Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th August
Rally 12.30 Tuesday 15th
or come at other times to
Show support against low pay and cuts
Outside Whipps Cross Hospital Main Gate,
Whipps Cross Road

Private contractor refusing to implement the pay agreement
that will lift these essential workers above poverty pay

~ Also see over page ~

Whipps Cross – safe for the future?

Reports that Whipps Cross Hospital may close have hit the front pages of our local papers this week. Hospital Trust officials say there is no such plan. But we do know plans cut to back and 'reconfigure' the NHS across the outer North East area of London are on the drawing board.

London Strategic Health Authority's paper "Fit for the Future, Strategic Scenarios" considers there are "too many in-patient sites". It implies priority will be given to private health consortiums now building a private sector Treatment Centre at King Georges Hospital Ilford and the new PFI hospital at Old Church Romford to be rented back to the NHS at enormous cost. - Is this how far local people will have to travel to access many services?

The very real fear is that Whipps Cross is being run down in order to transfer services out ensuring enough of 'business' for the private sector.

How else can we make sense of the impossible savings targets Whipps Cross has been set? The Trust's £33 million saving through the proposed cuts has been **rejected** by the London SHA as **not enough**. It appears they want around £30 million more to be saved, and quicker – this would amount to about one third of the total Whipps Cross budget of 2005. Impossible without serious reduction in hospital services.

Once specialist services are transferred out the hospital starts to lose its heart and range of skills.

The situation at Whipps Cross is mirrored in other parts of London e.g. Chase farm Hospital in Enfield and all across the country. What is happening locally has to be understood in the context of the governments plans for the NHS nationwide, plans to replace large sections of the NHS with the private sector. Multinationals are lined up to make massive profits from our illness and our money.

Our community needs a fully functioning, fully funded district general hospital - what ever the plans hatching at remote levels. Now is the time we must speak and take action to safeguard our right to local comprehensive NHS health care, for now and for our future, for public service not private profit.

Come to the meeting and rally advertised over the page AND

Take the petitions and leaflets Tell your friends, neighbours family and work colleagues get them involved

Contact or Write to your MP and your councilors, write to the papers

