

**Save**

13<sup>th</sup> October 2006

# Whipps Cross Hospital

as our

**District General Hospital**

~ fully functioning - fully funded ~



**Public meetings** to launch a community-wide campaign to defend Whipps Cross and our local community health services

## Woodford

**Thursday 26 October 8.00**

Forum with Panel including : **Dr Indira Mootosamy** BMA chair of LNG Whipps Cross consultant radiologist, **Norma Dudley**, AMICUS Waltham Forest health visitor, **Charlotte Monro** UNISON, Whipps Cross Staff Side, **Dr Sanjoy Kumar** Waltham Forest GP. Local

**Sir James Hawkey Hall,  
Broomhill Rd. Woodford Green.**

## Walthamstow

**Thursday 2 November 7.30**

Discussion and Speakers including: **Dr Indira Mootosamy** BMA chair of LNG Whipps Cross consultant radiologist, **Neil Gerrard** MP for Walthamstow, **Harry Cohen** MP Leytonstone and Wanstead, **Charlotte Monro** UNISON Whipps Cross Staff Side, **Dot Gibson** National Pensioners Convention

**Al Badr Hall, Lea Bridge Road** Corner of Northumberland Rd, (Between Bakers arms & Markhouse Rd. next to mosque)

Meetings called on initiative of Ian Duncan Smith MP / Keep our NHS Public Waltham Forest Campaigns

# November 1<sup>st</sup>

# National Lobby and March

# NHS Together Stop Cuts Closures and Privatisation

**Lobby of parliament** called by the TUC, health unions and staff associations -  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, Rally 12.00 Central Methodist Hall (Let your MP know you want to see them)

**March** to join the lobby called by National Pensioners Convention and supported by Keep our NHS Public and local health unions. Assemble 11.30 for 12.00 start, Forum Magnum Sq., York Rd, (Westminster Bridge end) by the river [www.keepournhspublic.com](http://www.keepournhspublic.com)

**Walthamstow contingent** meeting at Walthamstow Central tube 10.00 am – book time off now to join

Please help make this lobby as big as possible – your presence counts!



# Save Whipps Cross Hospital

The future of Whipps Cross as a district general hospital serving its local community is under threat. Government planners are seeking to reduce the number of hospitals in Outer North East London. Amongst the proposals is one to downgrade Whipps Cross to an ambulatory (walk-in) centre with some community beds. People from Waltham Forest & West Redbridge would have to travel miles through traffic to get to an accident and emergency or hospital care. Public consultation starts this January. But the fear is that with £44 million cuts now being imposed on Whipps Cross – a quarter of its total budget – its ability to function and provide the care the community needs is being crippled. Is our hospital being set up to fail?

## Cuts put Whipps Cross on Red Alert

The hospital is facing draconian cuts to staff, wards and resources. Since three wards have closed (out of 5 planned) the hospital has been on red alert much of the time. How will it cope this winter? Yet a second ward for acutely ill older people is planned to close on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff cuts have already led to serious problems accessing patient notes and getting patients information to GPs. Yet 276 hospital staff face redundancy, many of these essential medical secretaries, senior skilled nurses, admin staff, and specialist trainers who ensure staff can give high standards of care and safety.

Community health services, supposed to replace hospital, care also have their budget cut and community nurses are desperately over stretched as posts are held empty.

## Private consortiums dictating our future healthcare?

Multi national corporations looking to take over sections of the NHS have controlling interests in the new Oldchurch Park PFI hospital and the Independent Treatment Centre being built at King George's. The 'fit for the future' review - commissioned by Oldchurch PFI - gives these priority for funding over everywhere else.

The shape of our health care must be determined by health needs of the population not by corporate profit margins. We are already seeing milking of the NHS by business consultant 'turnaround directors' slashing services in our hospitals - paid upwards of £1,200 a day at Whipps Cross and allegedly £800 a day each to the rest of their 'team'. Huge local and national opposition is building against the Governments programme of cuts, closures and privatisation of our NHS that is sweeping the country.

## Speak out now for Whipps Cross - for a fully functioning, fully funded district general hospital

Come to the public meetings, to the national march and lobby- Your M.P must be in no doubt about public feeling at this proposal. Pass this leaflet round involve your friends, family, work colleagues, write to the papers with your views.

## Local Guardian Call:

**"We are begging our readers - Get ready for the fight"**

*The Walthamstow Guardian editorial on Sept 21<sup>st</sup> called on readers to get stuck in before a decision has been taken – before it is too late.*

*"There are signals that many of the hospital's services will be moved out of borough to Oldchurch Park in Romford, with some at King George at Goodmayes – a long car journey from here and frustratingly difficult to get to by public transport....."*

*"The real problem for us all is not that the hospital and the primary care trust have failed to live within their means, but that they have been grossly underfunded for far too long and still are."*

*"This is a borough where there is a great deal of poverty and a corresponding bulge in people suffering the most serious illnesses and early death."*

*"It needs money invested in its health services. It does not need them removed."*

*"You want to make sure you and your families are cared for properly and that lives are not lost needlessly through a diminution in health care."*

*Go along to the consultation meetings.*

*Get stuck in before it is too late....*

*"We are begging our readers to get ready for the fight. It depends on each and every one of you"*