

Save Whipps Cross Hospital Campaign



www.savewhippscros.org

18th September 2007

National Demonstration

Celebrate and Defend
the NHS

Saturday 3 November

Central London, Assemble 11 a.m. Temple Place on Victoria Embankment

Lets have a huge contingent from north east London. Its our NHS we will defend it

We are meeting to go together at Leytonstone or Walthamstow Central tubes, 9.45 leaving 10.00 . Or contact web site for arrangements.



Make our voices heard in the consultations

Our hospital and community services are stretched to capacity meeting the health needs of the local population. Whipps is on red alert most days, and we hear King Georges Hospital is as busy. More ward closures at Whipps, whilst more patients are treated than last year, with fewer staff.

Every Fit For the Future option involves losing 637 hospital beds to the Outer North East London area, and most include down grading either Whipps or St Georges, all under the banner of moving health care into the community 'closer to home' - also a central theme in the Darzi review of London's NHS.

But those very services that now reach people in the community are being severely reduced or even closed - as we report over page on the diabetes centre and community nursing. This is the reality we experience, whatever the catchphrases from strategy documents.

So what is the real agenda in the waves of radical changes on the way from Whitehall? Might the multi-billion dollar private health industry advising government strategy have something to do with it? We the public, health professionals and staff, and

health service users should work together to set out our vision for what is actually needed to meet the health needs of our population and make sure this is firmly on the agenda in the coming debates. We can make a difference—we have already.

Fit for the Future update

It looks like the Fit for the Future consultation is expected in the autumn, now shortly after the Healthcare for London consultation begins. November and December have been suggested as the likely starts.

The FFF options are being reviewed by Sir George Alberti, the results of which are likely to be known in October.

We have asked what form consultations will take, but yet await an answer.

Plans for new buildings at Whipps are being drawn up and the Trust's managers say they are optimistic that work will get under way on the first phase in the next 18 months, a sign of increased confidence in its future?

Diabetes Walk-in Service shut

Julia Thomson, Diabetes UK Waltham Forest secretary says “During all the current debate and discussion on Whipps Cross hospital and its fate we have already witnessed the closure of the Walk-in facility at Gillian Hansen Diabetes Centre.

This means there is no longer a service available for diabetics with problems to get expert help very quickly after developing worrying symptoms or complications.

So obviously we feel these proposals may be “unfit for the future” of the growing number of people with

diabetes in Waltham Forest”

Last February our newsletter featured the Diabetes Service at Whipps Cross who provided a highly valued open access 8-5, five days a week for registered patients, their carers and for advice to other professionals.

At the end of July the walk-in facility was closed by Whipps Cross Executives and Waltham Forest PCT. The PCT have made no increase to the 1.5 diabetic nurse specialist in the community.

Save Whipps Cross

Dr Alan Hakim, Campaign Vice Chair Writes

The Save Whipps Cross Campaign statement remains the same as it always has; ‘keep our district general hospital fully functioning and fully funded as part of a full health-care service for local people’. In this carefully considered statement lie several key points:

As a District General Hospital we want Whipps to continue to provide high levels of specialty care for both emergency (i.e. A&E, cancer etc), and elective patients (i.e. out-patients, planned surgery, obstetrics etc)

We want Whipps to continue to meet the needs of the local population BUT the work we do must be properly supported financially, with no compromise to quality of care, inequalities in access to care, or financial penalties for doing extra work if it has not been agreed with our commissioning Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) but nevertheless has to be done e.g. emergency care and extra cases in out-patients

We want Whipps Cross to continue to be part of a strong network that offers a seamless transition between home, community and hospital care

Support your local health services and have your opinion heard. Be prepared for when FfTF presents its public consultation. The Save Whipps Cross

Patchwork **NHS** Privatisation

Gradually, the government has been carrying out a ‘patchwork privatisation’ of the health service. The NHS is being ‘parcelled up into bite-sized pieces and handed over to private control bit by bit’.

The consequence is a privatised and fragmented health care service with the state as a general health insurer. To have such a system does not tally with the idea of planned care that is required to meet the health needs of the population, which has been the core principle of the NHS since its inception in 1948.

Another very important consequence is that it removes health care from democratic control. It puts an end to accountability and will lead to services being withdrawn and the introduction of more charges.

*Patchwork Privatisation, Alex Nunn. Available from Keep Our NHS Public
www.keepournhspublic.com or
Save Whipps Campaign Website*

Campaign believes the local community deserves a fully functioning hospital at the Whipps Cross Site, and more than one ‘Major Acute’ hospital in the health sector.

Cuts in Community Nursing bite deep

Despite winning a public campaign against drastic cuts last year, - health visiting, school nursing and district nursing services are being devastated.

Vacancy freezes and a policy of not replacing qualified staff who leave, have put remaining community nurses under extreme pressure, struggling to provide high quality care.

In Waltham Forest 7 years ago there was 1 health visitor to 395 children; last year there was 1 health visitor to 530 children; at present there is 1 health visitor to 687 children, and in the most poorly staffed area there is 1 health visitor to 1337 children.

This is the worst ratio in the whole of north east London, and one of the worst nationally.

The population of Waltham Forest experience some of the highest indicators of health needs in London and in the country. This has never been acknowledged in levels of health funding for the borough. Health visitors are key to reducing inequalities in health.

Thank You

Once again we would like to thank **Aldgate Press** who kindly donated 5000 leaflets for our public meeting this month. They printed for free the beautiful Save Whipps colour