



Pensioners and health workers and service users lobby NHS London (Strategic health Authority) last week

Safeguard Whipps Cross Hospital

~ No to cuts, ward closures and redundancies ~
The future of Whipps Cross Hospital is under
threat

Lobby of parliament called by the TUC, health unions and staff associations - Wednesday 1st November, midday.

March to join the lobby called by national Pensioners Convention and supported by Keep our NHS Public and local health unions at 11.00 – further details announced soon look on www.keepournhspublic.com – book time off now.

Monday October 2nd, Waltham Forest Keep our NHS Public campaign meeting 7.30 pm, Quaker Meeting House, Jewel Rd, Walthamstow. – All welcome, please come to join with our community and health worker campaign and add you suggestions and support.

Current Position in Whipps Cross

Present and impending cuts mean the loss of 400 jobs, 107 beds, 5 wards and 17,303 out patients attendances. Already ward closures mean that there are hardly any beds available for patients who need to be admitted.

The Hospital has been on RED ALERT much of the time since the middle of August – there is real concern that this means patients lives may be put at risk.

The Hospital has just started consulting on the closure of a second Care of The Elderly Ward planned for the 1st December 2006. What does this mean for the elderly residents of Waltham Forest this winter?

From “Flagship to Sinking Ship

These were the worried words of Councillor John Beanse, vice chairman of the Waltham Forest Council Health Scrutiny Committee in response to the “Fit For The Future” plans presented to them by the Chief Executive of Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust on 14th September about the future provision of health care in Outer NE London and significantly Whipps Cross and Waltham Forest.

One option in this programme would mean Whipps Cross would lose all its acute emergency and specialist services, becoming downgraded to an ambulatory care centre (i.e. Walk-in centre) and centre for day surgery. If this plan is adopted many patients suffering debilitating illness and serious emergencies would have to travel to the new Oldchurch Park (PFI) Hospital in Romford for treatment.

Consultation on these plans will start in November 2006 – but if the present extent of cuts at Whipps continues by the time the plans come to public consultation the possibilities of Whipps Cross remaining as a District General Hospital may be in greater danger.

There are already concerns that the new PFI Hospital at Oldchurch will not have the capacity to provide for closure of hospitals local to the Romford Area, yet it is proposed that this hospital can deal with all the acute emergency and complex hospital treatment for the four PCT areas of Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham and Havering.

What Can You Do?

Write to your local MP's. Visit their surgeries. London MP's are “Stakeholders” who are consulted by NHS London about London's health service provision.

Write to the Mayor of London – his office is also considered a “stakeholder” by NHS London.

These are our elected representatives unless you make your opinion known their consultation on our behalf is meaningless.

Contact the local media – let them know your concerns.

Respond to the rallying call from your local newspaper:

“Make sure you and your families are cared for properly and that lives are not lost needlessly through diminution in healthcare.

Go along to consultation meetings, write to your MPs and councillors, get stuck in before it is too late.... We are begging our readers to get ready for the fight.” - Waltham Forest Guardian editorial, September 21st 2006.