

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting: 5 October 2006

SCRUTINY

Subject: Public Concerns About Possible Future Changes to Service Levels at Whipps Cross University Hospital



Officer contact for further information: J Scott

Committee Secretary: A Hendry, ext.4246

Recommendation:

- 1. To receive and note copies of the report "Fit for the future: Strategic Scenarios" as presented to the Boards' of the NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts in the outer North East London health economy in July/August 2006, and Briefing Note No. 1 issued in September 2006.**
- 2. To note the studies taking place which could impact on hospitals providing services to residents of this district and in particular Whipps Cross University Hospital and King Georges Hospital.**
- 3. To agree to accept the offer of a presentation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the programme of representations from the NHS bodies involved.**

Report

- The population of the Epping Forest District is served in the main by two District General Hospitals these being Princess Alexandra in Harlow and Whipps Cross in Leytonstone. However, because of the geographical locations of the district some residents also receive treatment at King Georges Hospital, Ilford and Oldchurch Hospital, Romford. Those latter three hospitals are all now subject to a programme review being led by the North East London Strategic Health Authority.
- The residents of the Epping Forest District seem to be generally unaware that this review is taking place and public concern has started to grow following an article which appeared in the local newspaper on 24 August 2006. Members have picked up on these concerns resulting in a question at Council on 26 September 2006 (Councillor Knapman).
- Contact has been made with the North East London Strategic Health Authority to register the concerns of the Council that despite the fact that a large percentage of our population is served by Whipps Cross Hospital in particular, we have not been included in the consultation process.
- The North East London Strategic Health Authority is now aware of our particular interest and has agreed to add us to their stakeholder list. Further they have offered to arrange a presentation to Members if that is considered helpful. Members are asked whether they wish to receive such a presentation.