

London on the Brink...



What is happening to our local Health Services?

A BMA London Regional Council
Open meeting on the State of the
threats to the NHS in London.

7-9 pm, 25th February 2010,
The Great Hall, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London.

This meeting aims to:

- Discuss the report – “London on the Brink...”
- Give an opportunity to share information about the changes proposed across the capital
- Enable BMA members to meet with other NHS Unions and NHS Campaigners to widen the BMA “look after our NHS Campaign”

Invited Speakers:

John Lister

Author of BMA report “On the Brink...”

Anna Athow

Consultant, BMA Council, “District Hospitals under threat”

Jacky Davis

Consultant, BMA Council, How Doctors can get organised

Bronwen Handyside

Keep our NHS Public Campaign organisation

Dr Laurence Buckman

Chair of GPC.

The BMA LRC commissioned report has uncovered many concerns.

The report can be read at:

http://www.bma.org.uk/images/onthebrinkreport2010_tcm41-193388.pdf

Background:

It is expected that from 2011 there will be a freeze on NHS budgets.

London faces unique challenges – it has 14.8% of the English population, but could face a much higher share of the expected cutbacks. There are more mental health patients per head of population in London than other English regions, the capital has rising patient activity and it has a number of very expensive Private Finance Initiative (PFI) hospital schemes. The repayments for London’s twenty PFI hospital projects will have a lifetime cost of around £16.7 billion – more than six times the basic cost of the buildings. Some of the discussed changes include:

- The aim to reduce the number of people going to hospital accident and emergency departments by 60% and the number going to hospital outpatients by 55%.
- Millions of patients would be diverted to unproven “polysystems” or clinics that have not yet been built. These changes would cut upwards of £1.1 billion from hospital budgets in London, forcing wide scale cutbacks and closures, according to the report.
- A 66% reduction in staffing of non-acute services, these include community services for older people and district nurses.
- A 33% cut in the length of GP appointment times.
- Slimming down London’s hospital network, reducing many district general hospitals to lesser “local hospitals”, and leaving just a handful of “major acute” hospitals.
- Annual reductions in the “tariff” that determines how much hospitals are paid per item of treatment.

To reserve a place at this exciting event please contact:
info.lrc@bma.org.uk

