



Wanstead & Snaresbrook Residents' Alliance

TALK TO THE REDBRIDGE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE 2013

Thank you for agreeing to visit Wanstead Hospital, which took place on 30 May.

Unfortunately local rumours were confirmed when the senior manager told you that there was a plan to close 14 of the 46 beds available in the Galleon and Heronwood Wards.

I have checked the NHS Benchmarking Report and for Redbridge alone, never mind Barking, Dagenham and Havering, based on the population of the Borough, we need between 75 and 90 beds – far more than the 46 we currently have.

The West of the Borough contains the largest concentration of older people and there is naturally great interest in rehabilitation services. What people want is clear and unambiguous information about what is planned for them and how services are going to be provided in the future.

WaSRA is an alliance of the following organisations committed to the protection of Wanstead and Snaresbrook

THE CARLTON TERRACE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



*The Counties
Residents' Association*

www.countiesresidentsassociation.org.uk



**THE WANSTEAD
SOCIETY**

www.wansteadsociety.org.uk



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Given what has emerged on the visit, I think it is now very clear that attempts to inform residents of developments have failed and we now look to the Health Scrutiny Committee to ensure that residents are properly informed through formal consultation.

Whatever the intentions might have been, the net result is that the impression has been given that closures are taking place by stealth and an unnecessary degree of secrecy is surrounding the future of the Heronwood and Galleon Units.

As you know, before any beds can be closed there must be a full public consultation. Therefore, on behalf of the Wanstead and Snaresbrook Residents' Alliance, I am asking that the Committee insists that such a consultation be provided.

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