Mental Health

NO Beds at ‘New QEII’

Deja vu for this festive season with the usual Humbug from MP Grant Shapps over the shape for the ‘New QEII’, {12 December 2012} local rags headline; Fears over ‘no beds’ at New QE2 - MP Shapps warns health bosses not to break hospital pledge. Humbug because Shapps is still pushing his claim that the ‘New QEII’ was to include intermediate care beds and the PCT plans to renege on this ‘Pledge’. This was NEVER to be the case as he knows all to well. East & North Herts NHS Trust outlines—with excuses the PCT Plans: {Dec 2012} Capital cost of the New QEII is £30m and is a Department of Health LIFT (Local Improvement Finance Trust) scheme, which is a public private partnership. Demolition has taken place of the old Ascots, Bayford and Stanborough wards, work to build the new temporary car park will begin soon after financial close. Construction on the new hospital is planned to start Spring 2013, and is scheduled for completion in by the end of 2014. The timescale for financial close is later than originally planned, which means construction will commence a little later too. Much of the delay is due to additional detailed work being done on the design of the building, which will mean a better New QEII for staff and patients.

These changes include: ♦ A bigger outpatient department incorporating pre-operative assessment and dental treatment rooms. ♦ An increased number of examination and therapy rooms to help staff to see more patients. ♦ A larger lift and stair lobbies and wider corridors in a number of areas, including the child zone, to improve patient access and help the movement of patients around the building. ♦ Increased staff rest accommodation with the introduction of a mezzanine level in the staff room and a roof terrace. ♦ Increased car parking and drop off spaces – an extra 45 spaces will bring the total up to 345.

The New QEII will house the following services: ♦ A 24 hour Local A&E facility ♦ General outpatients GP services; including overnight and at weekends Diagnostics ♦ CT and MRI scans, x-rays and ultrasound ♦ Rapid Assessment Unit; for patients who need urgent assessment and diagnostics but don’t need to be admitted into hospital ♦ Endoscopy and day treatments ♦ Ante and post natal services ♦ Dedicated Children’s Zone ♦ Therapy services; including speech, physiotherapy and occupational ♦ Vicki Adkins Breast Unit ♦ A pharmacy.

2013 and again we ask does the PCT Plans for their ‘New QEII’ amount to a hospital? How many times do we have to expose this blatant sham before it becomes obvious to all? Essential Healthcare services are being continually destroyed at the QEII General Hospital, and regardless of how much money is poured into Lister hospital it can never hope to replace those services provided by the fully functioning General Hospital the QEII.

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