

## VICTORIA MIDDLE HOME WATCH REPORT- JANUARY 2004

I attended the *Hospital Trust Board Meeting* as a member of the public. Since the abolition of the Community Health Council I can no longer sit at the table nor do I have speaking rights! The *Primary Care Trust* has a more open system and always gives the first 15 minutes of the Board Meeting for the public to ask questions or raise matters of concern. It is very much to be regretted that the Hospital does not have a more open system.

- There was a presentation on **Renal Care**. Transplants and Dialysis numbers have doubled since 1982. The Government has set targets – The National Service Framework (NSF) - for each area of the NHS. The **Renal** Service is now Patient Centred, with individual care plan and access to a multi-disciplinary team. Patients need to be on the transplant list for a year before transplant for the necessary tests and for a suitable donor to be found. Transplant is better than dialysis for most patients but there is a shortage of donors. Live donors (family members) are often the best. There is the need to increase the gift of a kidney from the dead. Drugs to lessen rejection are improving but **best match** is preferred. The use of seat belts and fewer deaths from traffic accidents have reduced the availability of kidneys for transplants. People with diabetes, blood and heart problems are not suitable donors.
- Sir Nigel Crisp, the Chief Executive of the NHS, has issued the following information in his annual report:- The NHS is the largest employer in the world with 1.2 million employees.

The NHS is moving from Department of Health directed initiatives to Local initiatives Health Management will be 'in the Community' rather than in hospital, with only 6% in hospital.

Health problems – **27% of the public smoke** and **20% of the public is obese**.

The Department of Health is working with the Treasury on promoting Public Health (eg. **eat 5 pieces of fruit and vegetables a day**). Health is closely allied to Productivity. High absence rates are often due to unhealthy life styles!

Waiting Lists - Target for 2005 is 6 months for admission, 13 weeks for outpatients.

More people are using NHS Direct.

More treatments are taking place outside hospital in GP surgeries.

There is an increase in the range of work undertaken by nurses.

## CITY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION

There were three consultation meetings at which finance staff and senior councillors were present. The presentation, with visual aids, gave an excellent explanation of the situation for our city. Here are some facts worth noting:-

- 56% of Salford property is rated at Band A (and brings in a low revenue)
- 40% of property has one occupier who pays a reduced amount.
- The Government revenue grant is based on population (which is falling)
- The vulnerable (elderly, handicapped, children in care) do not leave for "better" areas, and they require a heavy input from Social Services.
- The total budget required to maintain services is £269 million.
- 51% of the £269m comes directly from the Government.
- 24% comes from the Business Rate (collected by Govt. and redistributed)
- The other 25% comes from Council Tax.

There is very little flexibility for the Council because of the fixed demands. Like us at home, the Council has to pay for maintenance, heat and light. The wages of the employees have to be met and all the 'on costs' such as insurance contributions. Of the £269 million 50% goes on Education, 25% on Social services, and the other 25% accounts for all the other services.

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