

COUNCIL – 12 APRIL 2005

ADMINISTRATION POLICY ITEM: Cllr. Fiona Bulmer

Hospital Cleanliness in our Borough

Council notes the superbug MRSA, which every year kills as many as 5,000 people who are admitted to hospital.

Council is dismayed that figures just released show local Barnet General and Chase Farm NHS trust to have the highest infection rate in the UK. This is even worse than last year's result, when the hospital trust had the fourth worst rate in the country. We believe this situation cannot be allowed to continue and urgent action is needed.

Council notes the government's obsession with targets and form filling; we believe this has created a bloated bureaucracy that is undermining patient care nationally and in Barnet in particular.

Council believes our residents deserve the best possible levels of healthcare. We believe this involves cutting back on bureaucracy, investing in technology to keep wards clean, focusing on clinical priorities, and allowing doctors and nurses to use their own professional judgement.

Council notes Conservative policy to reduce wasteful bureaucracy and invest in NHS frontline staff to clean up hospitals.

Council calls on Cabinet to encourage the Primary Care Trust (PCT) to support such moves to reduce MRSA in our hospitals. We understand that this can be the only way to ensure that the health of Barnet's residents can be protected should they be admitted to hospital.