

**Council: 8 November 2005**

**Administration Policy Item:** Cllr. Fiona Bulmer

**Barnet PCT**

Council notes that Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT), which currently provides primary and community healthcare for Barnet residents and which also commissions hospital and community services for them, works in co-terminosity with Barnet Council.

Council further notes the Government's proposals to decrease the number of PCTs across London, and enlarge the areas they cover.

Council believes that this could damage the current joint working relationships between the PCT and Barnet Council, especially work to support the vulnerable, including the elderly and children, as well as efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Council notes the ALG Leaders' meeting on 11 October, which saw Borough Leaders, of all political parties, calling for PCTs to continue to be coterminous with London Borough boundaries.

Council further notes that while the ALG committee agreed with proposals to make PCTs commissioners of a wider range of healthcare, they pressed for a stronger role for local Councils both within this arrangement, and in their powers to scrutinise local changes in the delivery of healthcare.

Council calls on Cabinet to oppose any moves to change the boundaries of the PCT, as this could damage work between Barnet Council and healthcare providers, putting the care of the vulnerable at risk. Council calls on Cabinet to make a representation to the Department of Health in support of plans to strengthen the Scrutiny role of London Boroughs in local health provision, and to ensure that London Boroughs have a stronger role to play should legislation to make PCTs wider commissioners of healthcare be passed.