

We need to put trust back into hospital

You may be sick of hearing about what went on at Stafford Hospital. You may have read, heard and watched so much that you don't want to know anymore.

Well I make no apologies for dedicating this blog to Stafford Hospital. I don't need to imagine the hurt felt by so many people in our community - I have seen it for myself.

Hundreds of people have waited months, even years, for answers to why loved ones died unnecessarily. Grieving families and friends have spent their precious time fighting to ensure nobody else should go through what they did.

Whether there is a full public inquiry or not our hospital must regain the trust and confidence of the people who matter most - you and I. There is a mountain to climb. But it is one that must be scaled.

Our council has a 'Health Scrutiny Committee.' It has been described as the 'eyes and ears' of the community. Unfortunately we are not given the teeth. So although we raised many concerns with hospital bosses - we had no power to take direct action.

The Local Government Association has called for new powers for councils and I welcome that. That power may go a long way to ensure this tragedy will not be repeated and rebuild the community's trust in their hospital.

I have met with Sir Stephen Moss and Antony Sumara, the new Chairman and Chief Executive of the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, and made it clear they will have the borough council's full support in helping put the 'trust' back into Stafford Hospital.

Mike Heenan
Leader of the Council

March 2010