

## **EDITORIAL November 2006**

An amazing amount is going on in Bristol medicine at the moment. We have summarised some of the salient events in our section--- News and Views.

Probably the most significant recent development has been the creation of a single PCT for the whole of Bristol which is coterminous with the boundary of the Bristol City Council. For the first time we shall have a single organisation that holds most of the budget. The Avon Area Health Authority seemed to be a good idea but it didn't have the money and therefore had no clout. The new PCT should be in a strong position to rationalise Bristol medicine. For instance, it should be able to insist that specialist services are not duplicated without good reason and that scarce expertise is concentrated in one place whenever possible. We shall watch events with much interest !

We are keen that this website should continue to contain news of what is happening medically in Bristol. We also want to use it as a forum for the exchange of opinions on a wide variety of health related topics. There are currently two topics on which we seek opinions. The first is Michael Whitfield's article on the Choose and Book initiative. The second is the idea that something should be done to improve the BRI campus by getting rid of the through traffic that blights the site (see, "Sink the Road"!).

In order to facilitate debate we have created a blog site for the MedChi. This can be reached with a link from our website. It is easy to access and you don't need a password. Instructions are on the site.

Alternatively you can e-mail me at [rlangtonhewer@doctors.org.uk](mailto:rlangtonhewer@doctors.org.uk)

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