

MP questions threat to NHS services

The Government is to investigate why reductions to NHS services have been proposed when the city's health budget is actually increasing.

During Business Questions last week, Mark Lancaster MP asked for a debate on the subject after there was a consultation to reduce frontline services "despite NHS funding being ring-fenced.

A recent document, 'Shaping the Future of Healthcare in Milton Keynes', suggests scaling back a number of procedures and operations.

The proposals come despite the fact that the health budget is one of only two which the Government has protected, and funding is actually going up in Milton Keynes, from Â£358m to Â£366.4m.

Sir George Young, leader of the House of Commons, promised that health secretary Andrew Lansley would write to Mr Lancaster on the subject.

NHS Milton Keynes says, so far, 30 managers and admin staff have been made redundant, saving Â£1.7m a year.

After the debate the Milton Keynes North MP said: "The question is: why are bureaucrats shaping the future of our NHS "to the detriment of frontline services" when they are not going to be part of it? I understand they have a transitional role, but local people are concerned that healthcare is being jeopardised. I am determined to get to the bottom of this issue in order to protect our fantastic local NHS."