

## **MSP CALLS FOR DATE ON MATERNITY UNIT**

Jim Tolson MSP met with Fife NHS chiefs recently, including the Health Board Chairman Professor Jim McGoldrick to discuss issues concerning Queen Margaret Hospital. At the meeting various issues were discussed. Jim said "I think it was a positive meeting, I was given an assurance that there is a long term commitment to improve the services offered at Queen Margaret Hospital however I did ask for a commitment on three main things"

- The date for commencement of Maternity Services would be no later than 2010.
- To improve the communication between Fife Health Board and the residents of West Fife.
- To demonstrate improved hygiene levels in Queen Margaret Hospital.

Jim said "With major investments in QMH ongoing (such as the £1 million MRI scanner) I am convinced that the QMH will continue to be a key part of the health services in Fife. However, NHS Fife has to be more reactive to the concerns of the people of West Fife, which is why I am calling on them to bring forward their plan for a midwife led maternity unit in at QMH to 2010".

Professor McGoldrick offered to organise meetings between local GPs and the MSP in the near future.

Jim Tolson has written to The Secretary of Health Nicola Sturgeon asking for a meeting to discuss health provision in West Fife. He has also written to health campaigners asking to be included in any meeting they have with the minister as cross-party support for improved West Fife health services is likely to be much more effective.