

Sarah Mitchell (Portsmouth District Council Social Services): telephone interview  
(22/07/01)

After April 2001, all responsibility for social services in Gosport moved from Portsmouth DC to Hampshire County Council

Until last April, Portsmouth responsible for all social work services to War Memorial area, including transfer and discharge of patients

Old system was that Gosport ward would contact social services to advise them that a patient about to be discharged, district office would hang on to case for 28 days, then pass over to their area office in Gosport or wherever the patient was being discharged to

Always had hospital-based social workers who would act as liaison point between hospital and council department

Social worker involvement with hospital patients while they are in hospital at time Portsmouth DC in charge 'very minimal'; stopped having old multi-disciplinary ward meetings to discuss patients care plans; social worker involvement when it happened tended to focus on individual patients prior to discharge, and with their relatives and carers

Would expect to be told as soon as possible after doctors/nurses decided that patient medically fit to be discharged; would work to a 12-day discharge timetable but usually finished within 8 days; process would begin with ward notice to social services, followed by multi-disciplinary discharge assessment involving social workers, nurses, doctors, Ots and physios

Social services didn't get directly involved in transfers of patients between hospitals although they would be notified that one was taking place

Sarah M. chairs Portsmouth local implementation team on NSF for older people: very pleased about the 'very good operational relationship between health and social services' pm NSF in Portsmouth area although still much to be done to develop whole systems working to develop effective care pathways for older people

Primary care sector particularly difficult to persuade to work in whole systems way; much support from evolving PCTs but not from GPs on the ground

Geriatricians locally have become closely involved in joint working on NSF; attend all the meetings