

**Caroline Harrington - Assistant Business Manager**

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**From:** David Barker - Communication Manager  
**Sent:** 19 October 2001 13:59  
**To:** Caroline Harrington; Eileen Thomas; Fiona Cameron; Humphrey, Lesley; Ian Piper; Max Millett; Reid, Ian (Dr) (Elderly)  
**Cc:** Code A Galley Sue (QEV) IOW Ports & SE Hants HA  
**Subject:** draft press release

**Importance:** High  
**Sensitivity:** Confidential



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As promised here's the draft press release - to be finalised first thing Monday am.

Thanks

david

## News release

### Trust welcomes CHI investigation into Gosport War Memorial Hospital

Portsmouth HealthCare NHS Trust chief executive Max Millett today welcomed the announcement of a Commission for Health Improvement investigation at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

The investigation will look at care provided on elderly medicine wards at the hospital and has been arranged following publicly voiced concerns about certain episodes of care at the hospital in 1998.

Max Millett said:

“We welcome the Commission’s visit and its review of the service we provide for older people at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

“It affords the opportunity to have a thorough look at the service from an independent perspective.

“To be effective, investigations such as these rely on a spirit of cooperation and openness and we will be happy to work alongside CHI to ensure that we apply whatever lessons that can be learned to further improve the service we offer.

“The Trust has full confidence in the staff who work at Gosport War Memorial Hospital and in the excellent services that they provide. We will be anxious to support them during the review process to ensure that they can contribute to it fully

Max Millett said that he recognised the concerns which have been expressed publicly about the standards of care in the hospital, dating back to 1998.

“We hope that the CHI visit will help reassure people about the care provided today and allow us to demonstrate the progress we have made in service provision over the past two or three years.”

*...ends*

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#### Notes to editors:

i) Portsmouth HealthCare NHS Trust currently provides a range of specialist services (including adult and elderly mental health, elderly medicine and learning disability) and some community health services, to people in Portsmouth and South East Hampshire.

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ii) In recognition of the national trend to transfer community services to PCTs and the local vision of care, the Trust is now working with local NHS and social care organisations to manage the safe transfer of services to new Primary Care Trust and Trust providers. This has been the subject of the public consultation exercise (*Local Health, Local Decisions*) currently underway until 30th November, which offers proposals for the transfer of services and the dissolution of this Trust in April 2002.

iii) The Trust currently manages most of the services run from Gosport War Memorial Hospital and will continue to do so until March 2002.

iv) For further information please contact.....*tba*

For further information from CHI please contact Alison Iliff or Matt Tee, CHI Communications Department, on Code A

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