

COMMISSION FOR HEALTH IMPROVEMENT (CHI)

Investigation at Gosport War Memorial Hospital

Media Brief

Background

As you know the CHI investigation will happen over a 24week period between October and next March.

It will focus on elderly medicine wards (Dryad, Daedalus) and the GP ward.

This will include a one week visit, probably not until January.

CHI will be issuing a press release - likely to be Friday 19th October.

We are trying to get sight of that beforehand and we may need to update this sheet/our media response to meet their specific points once we have seen it.

Likely to be an initial flurry of interest, then may go quiet until the date of their one week visit is agreed/publicised.

Terms of reference

To be agreed at CHI meeting on Thursday; we're expecting (as per Max's email (5 Oct):

- focus on quality of general medical inpatient care at GWMH i.e.the two Elderly Medicine wards (Dryad, Daedulus) and GP ward.rather than the hospital as a whole, EMH etc
- review policies/etc that support wards including wider clinical governance/patient pathway/protocol aspects
- communcations ...every aspect:internal,with Haslar,primary care, social services PHT, rest of PHCT services etc
- test public opinion, stakeholders, voluntary groups, carers/patient groups etc
- no formal link with PHT CHI inspection but will work closely with colleagues to pick up any overlap issues

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- will have looking back to 1998/99, the now, and what might change in future dimensions

Response to media enquiries

Enquiries are likely to be generated as a result of the CHI press release; they will probably come through the usual route - into TCO.

At this stage we should stick with the general response points as previously discussed. CHI may wish to connect their visit to concerns about the standard of care at Gosport which have received substantially media coverage recently. Either way, we should be prepared to acknowledge the reasons for the visit and how they relate to these concerns.

- we welcome the CHI visit and its review of services - 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

- we recognise 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

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