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News Release

2 November 2001

LOCAL COMMENT SOUGHT FOR INVESTIGATION INTO GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) wants to hear from patients, their relatives and carers, staff and former members of staff, GPs, patients' representatives and community groups who wish to talk about their experience of Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

CHI is investigating continuing and rehabilitation inpatient care in Gosport War Memorial Hospital following reported concerns about the quality of care for older people provided by the hospital and the culture in which it is delivered.

The investigation team includes a doctor, nurse and therapist who specialise in elderly care, and a primary care trust chief executive, all drawn from within the NHS, a lay person and CHI's investigation manager. At the end of the investigation, CHI will publish a report including what action needs to be taken at the trust.

Members of the investigation team will hold prearranged meetings from 9:30 - 4:30 on Wednesday 21 November in Gosport, and Thursday 22 and Friday 23 November in Portsmouth. CHI would also welcome comments until the middle of December. Those with experience of the hospital, staff and GPs can contact CHI's stakeholder line to arrange a personal appointment on **0845 601 2238** (calls charged at local rate). CHI would also welcome feedback by telephone, email or letter.

CONTACT DETAILS:

- to arrange an in confidence appointment, for a confidential phone conversation or for more information telephone 0845 601 2238 (charged at local rate) – we offer a ring back service at your convenience
- write to Kellie-Anne Rehill, Commission for Health Improvement, FREEPOST, LON 15399, London EC1B 1QW
- email kellie-anne.rehill@chi.nhs.uk
- fax on 020 7558 1528

[ENDS]

For further information contact: Alison Iliff or Rebecca Gray, CHI Communications Department on 020 7448 9235 or 020 7448 9439. After hours phone 07779 111359 or 07810 753820.

Notes to Editors

- CHI is an independent body set up to help the NHS monitor and improve clinical care across England and Wales
- CHI investigates serious failures in the NHS when requested by the Secretary of State for Health in England and the National Assembly for Wales, at the request of trusts or other NHS organisations and at the request of other individual or groups. CHI also undertakes assessments of every NHS trust, health authority, primary care group or trust and local health group across England and Wales once every four years.

General

- The Commission's management structure comprises a Board with 13 commissioners and chairman, Dame Deirdre Hine.
- CHI does not cover Scotland as it has its own body, the Clinical Standards Board for Scotland. The First Minister for Northern Ireland may invite CHI to undertake work at some point in the future.
- CHI's role is to undertake regular clinical governance reviews as well as hold investigations or inquiries into serious service failures. It is also responsible for studies which monitor and review the implementation of the national service frameworks and National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance.
- Further information on CHI is available on www.chi.nhs.uk

Terms of reference

1. Concerns have been raised with CHI about the quality of patient care for older people at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. These concerns include the following:
 - (i) Arrangements for the administration of drugs
 - (ii) Transfer arrangements for patients between the Gosport War Memorial Hospital and other local hospitals
 - (iii) Responsibility for patient care
 - (iv) The culture in which care is provided
2. As a result, in September 2001 CHI decided to undertake an investigation into the management, provision and quality of healthcare for which Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust is responsible at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.
3. The investigation will look at whether, since 1998, there had been a failure of trust systems to ensure good quality patient care. The investigation will focus on the following elements within services for older people (inpatient, continuing and rehabilitative care) at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.
 - (i) Staffing and accountability arrangements, including out of hours.
 - (ii) The guidelines and practices in place at the trust to ensure good quality care and effective performance management.
 - (iii) Arrangements for the prescription, administration, review and recording of drugs.
 - (iv) Communication and collaboration between the trust and patients, their relatives and carers and with partner organisations.
 - (v) Arrangements to support patients and their relatives and carers towards the end of the patients life
 - (vi) Supervision and training arrangements in place to enable staff to provide effective care.
4. In addition, CHI will examine how lessons to improve care have been learnt across the trust from patient complaints.
5. The investigation will also look at the adequacy of the trusts clinical governance arrangements to support inpatient continuing and rehabilitative care for older people.

Note:

Gosport War Memorial Hospital is managed by Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust and will become part of a Primary Care Trust (PCT) in April 2002.

INVESTIGATION TEAM

Julie Miller: CHI investigation manager

Alan Carpenter: Chief Executive, Somerset Coast Primary Care Trust

Dr Tony Luxton: Lifespan Healthcare NHS Trust

Maureen Morgan: (Former Nurse Director and Acting Chief Executive) Independent Consultant

Mary Parkinson: Member of Age Concern, England

Jennifer Wenbourne: Independent Occupational Therapist

Annie Crosskurth