

& GOSPORT **News**

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The News TODAY

Health boss moved in hospital inquiry

GOSPORT'S health boss has today been moved to another job after police were handed a new file about the use of drugs at the town's War Memorial Hospital.

Police will look at the new information in reference to deaths of several elderly patients at the hospital.

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HOSPITAL: Authority announces action in light of investigation

Health chiefs are to be moved on

by Richard Whitehouse
The News

GOSPORT'S health boss has today been moved to another job after police were handed a new file about the use of drugs at the town's War Memorial Hospital.

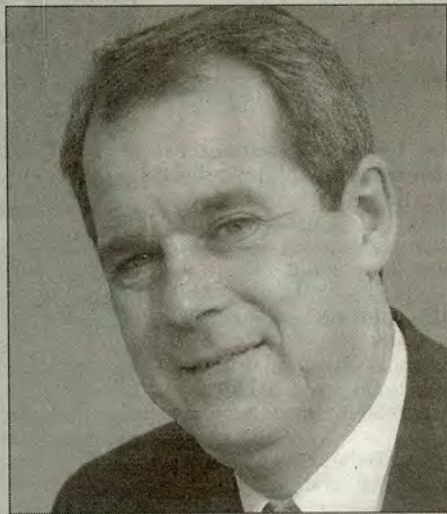
The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Authority today announced Ian Piper, the chief executive of the Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust, has been temporarily redeployed.

The health authority has also asked Tony Horne, chief executive of East Hampshire Primary Care Trust, which is responsible for the health of people in Havant, to step down from his top role for the time being.

The startling development in the long-running War Memorial saga came as the health authority revealed it had passed to police management documents expressing concern about drug use at the hospital as long ago as 1991 - seven years earlier than inquiries have so far concentrated on.

Police will look at the new information in reference to deaths of several elderly patients at the War Memorial Hospital.

The health authority said Mr Piper and Mr



Care trust chief executives Ian Piper, left, and Tony Horne, are on the move

Police hand statements to prosecutors

GOSPORT'S War Memorial Hospital is currently being investigated by police and professional regulatory bodies are also looking at the actions of staff at the hospital.

Police say they are handing new statements from relatives to the Crown

Prosecution Service to review.

Last week the government's chief medical officer, Sir Liam Donaldson, commissioned an audit of the hospital's death rates.

Expert Professor Richard Baker will carry this out.

Horne have been redeployed to other duties because they are understood to have been involved in management decisions at the hospital at the time.

In a statement Gareth Cruddance, chief executive of the health authority, said: 'This will ensure the ongoing investigation is, and is seen to be, fully independent and able to com-

mand the trust of local people.'

Health authority spokesman Adrian Osborne said the documents had come into their possession 'very recently' but he did not know what was in them.

Mr Osborne said: 'The information that has come out previously has focused on the period around 1998 and this new document

highlights concerns made in 1991 and this may present concerns for people who have been treated at the hospital.'

An information line has been set up inpatients or relatives on 0845 602 4116.

Mr Osborne said the Primary Care Trust would look at the issue of who would take over from Mr Piper and Mr Horne.

Police seek help in solving 'bragzer' house burglary