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Family's anguish

THE family of a man who died at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, now at the centre of a police investigation, have spoken for the first time about their loss.

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HEALTH CARE: Gosport War Memorial Hospital Action Group swells its ranks

More families speak over mystery deaths

by Richard Whitehouse
The News

A FAMILY has spoken for the first time about how their relative died at the Gosport hospital at the centre of a police investigation.

Debbie McKay, daughter of Stanley Carby who died at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in 1999, and her mother Rita Carby told how they were shocked by the sudden death.

They have now joined the Gosport War Memorial Hospital Action Group which is fighting to get 27 deaths fully investigated by the police and other bodies.

The group is being represented by leading solicitor Ann Alexander who is also currently representing hundreds of relatives in the Harold Shipman case.

Mrs McKay has told how her Dad was able to walk into an ambulance which took him from Royal Hospital Haslar to the war memorial for rehabilitation after a stroke.

She and her family had been told by doctors that Stanley, 65, was expected to make a full recovery but needed rest.

Just over 24 hours later Stanley died with his family around him. They believe it was due to excessive sedative drugs and still do not know why they were given to him.

Mrs McKay said: 'Dad was transferred to the war memorial for rehab following his stroke.

'Doctors told us that it wasn't life threatening and that he just needed rehabilitation and treatment to get the side of his body affected functioning.



A distraught Rita Carby and her daughter Debbie McKay want answers about the passing of Rita's husband Stanley, who died aged just 65 while receiving treatment at Gosport War Memorial Hospital

PICTURE: IAN HARGREAVES (025520-5)

SHIPMAN CASE SOLICITOR WILL REPRESENT GROUP

POLICE first started looking into Gosport War Memorial Hospital deaths when Gillian Mackenzie raised concerns about her mother Gladys Richards's death in 1998.

Mrs Mackenzie told police that she believes that excessive levels of sedative drugs contributed to her mother's death.

An investigation was carried out and a file sent to

the Crown Prosecution service which was returned because of a lack of evidence.

When Mrs Mackenzie spoke about her mother's case to *The News* early in 2001, more families came forward with similar cases and asked police to investigate.

Earlier this year the Commission for Health

Improvement published a report criticising previous prescribing practices at the hospital.

Ann Alexander, who represented hundreds of families in the Harold Shipman case, announced she would represent the Gosport War Memorial Hospital Action Group. This week she called for a full and proper investigation.

'My younger brother asked doctors if Dad was going to die. They said that it was very unlikely.'

Mrs McKay visited her father at the hospital and told

staff that if ever there was any change in his occasion, no matter what time of day or night, they should contact her.

She said: 'We were with

him at 4.45pm on April 26. He even asked me to put a bet on for him - he was fine, just his normal self.

'My brother saw him at 6pm and the last people who

saw him that day left at 9pm.

'They had got there at 7.30pm and said he had been moved to a little room. They said he looked doopy. We didn't get any phone call about this.

'We got a phone call at 10.20am the following day and we got to the hospital at 10.30am. He was unconscious and didn't even know we were there. It was unbelievable. I kept asking if we should get the rest of the family in and was told not to by the staff. We got as many as we could anyway, but by 1pm he was dead.'

Mrs McKay said: 'He was only 65 - this should never have happened.'

'Mum's medication for heart condition was stopped'

BARNEY Page first raised concerns about his mother Eva Page's death at Gosport War Memorial Hospital after reading about the deaths there in *The News*.

Eva Page was 88 when she was transferred from Queen

Alexandra Hospital to the war memorial on February 27 1998.

She had been in QA for almost two weeks with depression, dementia, suspected cancer of the bronchus and heart disease.

Mr Page, of Alverstoke, said: 'On arrival at the hospital she was given morphine and remained under its influence until she died on Dryad ward on March 3. I was told that she had been in pain and that is why

she was given the morphine.

'But since getting her medical notes and studying them it clearly states that she was not and, worse still, all the normal medication for her heart condition had been stopped on her admission.'



Barney Page