

Son to meet health minister over deaths

A GOSPORT man is due to meet a health minister to discuss a damning report over deaths in a hospital.

Ian Wilson, 53, of Beryton Road, Gosport, is one of many families due to meet health minister Norman Lamb.

The meeting is being held on Friday in Westminster, and will give families a chance to discuss the Baker report.

As reported, the document looked into 81 deaths at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH) during the 90s, after concerns were raised about patient care under Dr Jane Barton.

The review, which was done by Richard Baker, a professor of clinical governance, who worked on the Harold Shipman inquiry, revealed an over-prescription, and in some cases use, of opiates, and note-taking had been poor.

Mr Wilson's father Robert, 74, had been to Queen Alexandra Hospital, in Cosham, for a shoulder injury.

He was transferred to GWMH, to wait to be put into a nursing home.

But he died in October 1998, and the cause of death was put down to bronchopneumonia.

Mr Wilson said: 'I am due to meet Mr Lamb on Friday.'

'There are two things families have been asking for - a public inquiry and a criminal hearing.'

'Nothing has changed, and maybe this is a step nearer to that, or not?'

'Mr Lamb has been helpful



along the way, and does know a lot about what has gone wrong, so that gives us some kind of hope.'

The Baker report, which was published last month, had taken 10 years to become public.

It said opiates were often prescribed before needed.

It also said Dr Barton had a higher percentage of patients whose cause of death was put down to bronchopneumonia, and prescribed a higher number of opiates before a patient's death.

It also found there 'were no clear clusters of deaths', but the 'proportion of patients at Gosport who did receive opiates before death is remarkably high'.

Gosport MP Caroline Dinenage said: 'I am glad this meeting is taking place, and I would like to go along to.'

'If there is an inquiry, then I think it will be in the same vein as Hillsborough.'