

**BRIEF FOR NEWS CONFERENCE. JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> 2002**

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen.

Welcome to Gosport and to the Salvation Army Hall. Thank you very much for coming to this news conference today.

My name is Lucy Docherty and I am the Chairman of Fareham & Gosport PCT. We are here to discuss the findings of the CHI investigation into services at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. However, before I go any further, let me just make a number of domestic announcements:

Fire exits,  
Loos,  
Refreshments.

Introductions: Mr Ian Piper, Chief Executive of the Trust, Dr Ian Reid, Medical Director, who are sitting with me.

At the end of 2001, following concerns raised by members of the public in respect of the care of some patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital, the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) was invited by the then Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and South East Hants Health Authority to conduct a thorough, independent, investigation at the hospital. CHI was asked to look at the issues underlying the complaints, and previous investigations, with the aim of reviewing current practice to ensure that the hospital is providing safe, good quality care for patients today. The report has been published this morning. The purpose of this media briefing is to discuss the report and its conclusions with the press.

We have arranged facilities for any relatives who are here today and wish to speak direct to the media or ourselves after the media briefing is over. There will also be the opportunity for individual interviews. Please let Sue Galley or Rob Dalton know after the questions who you would like to interview but can I stress that this next half hour is for questions from the media.

I will now hand over to Ian Piper who will summarise the content of the report and outline the recommendations and next steps.

There will then be an opportunity for the press to ask questions of the panel.

The press conference will end in 30 mins time at 11.30 am.