

Fareham and Gosport

Primary Care Trust

**STATEMENT FROM IAN PIPER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
FAREHAM AND GOSPORT PRIMARY CARE TRUST
3 JULY 2002**

Please check against delivery

There are a number of points that I would like to raise with you on behalf of Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust:

1. We welcome this report. It represents in my view one of the most thorough examinations of any community hospital in the country.
2. During their investigation, the Commission for Health Improvement team spoke to almost 100 staff, 36 patients' relatives and friends, held interviews with 15 NHS organisations, and undertook a five day visit to Gosport War Memorial Hospital.
3. This contributes to my view that this report is fair, rigorous and independent.
4. We acknowledge that the last four years have been very difficult and distressing particularly for the families and also the staff at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.
5. I am aware that the families raised their concerns so that services would improve and I hope that the publication of the CHI report provides reassurance that this has happened.
6. The CHI report highlights some serious concerns about prescribing practices and management systems in 1998.
7. The report acknowledges the significant improvements that have been made since 1998. The Trust has:
 - increased nursing and medical staffing,
 - strengthened accountability and supervision arrangements,

- developed a range of training initiatives and
 - developed policies, in particular for prescribing and pain management.
8. The report also identifies further recommendations to improve services. In some areas work has already started.
9. As a new organisation we accept the recommendations in full and will be working with East Hampshire PCT to implement the changes required. We received the report only yesterday, and aim to develop an action plan by the end of August this year.
10. One of the first steps we will be taking is to ensure that the relatives are as involved as they wish to be in the plans we draw up to implement the recommendations.
11. It is important for the people of Gosport to have confidence in the services provided at Gosport War Memorial Hospital and we believe that the CHI report gives them this reassurance.

(Ends)