

Hospital at centre of probe 'now has clean bill of health'

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THE health trust that runs Gosport War Memorial Hospital said it meets all the care standards.

In the wake of an investigation into high death rates at the site between the 1980s and the early 2000s, Southern Health NHS Trust, which took over in 2011, said it is doing the best for patients.

A spokesman said: 'Services we run include physical and mental health wards, physiotherapy and outpatient services.'

'The Care Quality Commission, our regulator,

Trust that took over Gosport War Memorial speaks out on current care

currently rates our services as meeting all national standards of care. We seek regular feedback from patients, carers and families, on the care we provide so we can keep improving what we do.

'Southern Health is not involved in the current investigation.'

It comes as care minister Norman Lamb announced an investigation has started into the deaths at the hospital.

It is being headed by Bishop James Jones, of Liverpool, who also led the independent

panel that looked into the Hillsborough disaster.

The Gosport Independent Panel will look at whether there was an overuse of opiates for elderly people, which may have led to their deaths.

The other members on the panel are:

■ Dr Bill Kirkup - a member of the Hillsborough Independent Panel and current chairman of the independent investigation into maternal and neonatal deaths at Morecambe Bay Hospital;

■ Dr Colin Currie -

specialised in geriatric medicine, and has worked on policy development to integrate health and social care for older people;

■ David Hencke - an independent investigative journalist. He was a member of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act;

■ Duncan Jarrett - former Scotland Yard Commander with more than 35 years' investigative experience. Vice chairman of mediation in Hertfordshire.

The panel will hear from families and look at reports before producing findings.

No deadline has been set to conclude the inquiry.