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Charity of  
the Year**PRESS RELEASE GOSPORT WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - 04 November 02**

Press Release

Gosport War Memorial Hospital Action Group

At a meeting held last night in Fareham Hampshire, over 50 representatives of 27 fan overwhelming support for there to be a proper investigation and inquiry into events at War Memorial Hospital.

All but one of those present had lost a loved one taken unexpectedly and suddenly ill rehabilitation or other treatment in one of three wards at the local hospital. Many of them after being given diamorphine for relief of alleged pain. A number of those who died in time earlier on the road to recovery and expected to be soon well enough to be discharged. One man present who had survived the experience had been transferred to another hospital War Memorial Hospital and had to be treated for the effects of diamorphine before he could be discharged. Other families spoke of neglect on the wards concerned which had resulted in unexpected deaths over a ten year period.

Numerous relatives had subsequently made complaints to police, the General Medical & Midwifery Council, Hospital Trust and Health Authority. In several cases early compensation had met with little or no satisfactory response.

In recent weeks further complaints have been made by relatives to Hampshire Constabulary who reopened their enquiries apparently after receipt of certain previously unseen documents from the hospital. Last night the relatives welcomed the renewed investigations by the police and had not been told precisely what new evidence has come to light or why it was not previously available to the police.

Other relatives who had complained to the GMC about the medical staff involved commented on progress with their complaints. An audit being undertaken of outcomes at the hospital of the Chief Medical Officer is not expected to report until next year.

Families heard from Ann Alexander, managing partner of Alexander Harris, Solicitors in a meeting, who said that in previous cases there had been a lack of co-ordination between agencies involved.

The families hoped that a proper investigation and inquiry would at last be undertaken to address numerous concerns expressed and that where appropriate there would be accountability for individual or system failures that might have occurred.

**Alexander Harris Solicitors**

'A highly respected niche practice' Alexander Harris is ranked as one of the leading specialist negligence firms and amongst the leading firms specialising in personal injury (Chambers 2002). Alexander Harris also specialise in pharmaceutical product liability, injury over mental health and community care. With offices in the North West, Midlands and Central England over 150 staff, Alexander Harris' latest news can be found on the Internet at [www.alexanderharris.co.uk](http://www.alexanderharris.co.uk)

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