

## Briefing to all members of Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust

Thursday, 28 November 2002

It is being announced today that an investigation is to be launched by the Strategic Health Authority, Fareham and Gosport PCT and East Hampshire PCT to establish whether those with management or clinical management responsibility for the Gosport War Memorial Hospital acted appropriately in response to events or concerns expressed about prescribing practices between 1988 and 1998.

The investigation will be led by Mr Michael Taylor who has had 26 years experience as a Chief Executive in the NHS, but who now works independently.

I know that this has been an extremely difficult time for many of our staff in the PCT and I am aware of the extra stress associated with the ongoing investigations. Nevertheless, it is important to be able to reassure the general public that we have done all in our power to ascertain the facts surrounding the issues that have caused so much concern to many relatives of past patients at the hospital. I know that this has not been an easy time for many of you but I am sure I can rely upon your continued cooperation.

We are a very new organisation that has had some extremely difficult times to cope with in the first few months of our existence. I am enormously proud of the way all our staff have coped with the many complex issues that have confronted them so far and of how they have continued to strive to provide a good level of health care to the residents of Fareham and Gosport.

If you have any further questions please speak to your line manager or contact Fiona Cameron at the PCT offices at Fareham Reach.

Should you have any concerns, or wish to speak to anyone about this latest development, the PCT has put in place support mechanisms for you. These are available through "CoreCare" which is a freephone helpline providing confidential advice and information and counselling referral services - 0800 181 392

With best wishes

**Code A**

Lucy Docherty.  
Chair Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust