

Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Strategic Health Authority



Oakley Road
Southampton
SO16 4GX

Facsimile Cover Sheet

Tel: 023 8072 5444
Fax: 023 8072 5405

To:

Code A

Fax No: 01329 234984

From:

Date: 23rd October 2002

Subject:

GWMH Facts Sheet

Pages: 3 (Including this one)

Dear Code A

Please find attached the Gosport War Memorial Hospital Facts Sheet. These have been sent out over the past few days, along with the Data Request forms, and a few remaining ones today. We have received a few calls in response – just to warn you, as you may also get some.

Best regards

Code A

Chair: Peter Bingham
Chief Executive: Gareth Cruddace

Facts Sheet

Statement from Gareth Cruddace, Chief Executive, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Health Authority regarding Gosport War Memorial Hospital

The care and treatment of inpatients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital has been the subject of an investigation by the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI), ongoing investigation by the Hampshire Constabulary and proceedings of the appropriate professional regulatory bodies. The Government's Chief Medical Officer has commissioned a clinical audit of the service concerned to be undertaken by acknowledged national expert Professor Richard Baker.

Additional information relevant to these matters has recently come to light and this information has been handed to Hampshire Constabulary and the appropriate professional regulatory bodies. This information includes internal documents from 1991 highlighting concerns about prescribing practises at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

We are committed to ensuring the quality and safety of local NHS services, and recognise that this information may raise concerns about inpatient care or that of a relative at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. People who have not previously come forward can ring an information line on **0845 602 4116** so that we can follow up their concerns.

We are also committed to ensuring that all appropriate action is taken in relation to these matters, and this is likely to include looking at the management decisions taken at the hospital. Given the involvement in these decisions of Ian Piper, Chief Executive of Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust, and Tony Home, Chief Executive of East Hampshire Primary Care Trust, it has been agreed that they will be temporarily redeployed to other duties. This will ensure that the ongoing investigation is, and is seen to be, fully independent and able to command the trust of local people.

It is important to note that whilst the CHI investigation had some serious concerns about services in the past, it concluded that policies and procedures are now in place to ensure safe standards of care at the hospital. However, to further reassure local people we have asked an experienced senior nurse from outside the area, working alongside the PCT's, to oversee and review patient care at Gosport War Memorial Hospital over the next few months.

If you have concerns, either about yourself or on behalf of a relative, in connection to the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, listed below are some options you may wish to consider.

1. If you wish to review Medical records of a relative, there is a standard process for requesting a review of medical records as follows:-

- You would need to complete a request form which is available from the complaints department, tel no. 01329-229408
- Provide proof of your identity, and proof of the identity of the person about whom you are enquiring. This is to ensure that all request are bona fide.

You can contact the complaints department on 01329-229408.

2. If you wish to make a formal complaint

We do have a formal NHS Complaints procedure that aims to address concerns about patient care and treatment?

The Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust has been responsible for services at Gosport War Memorial Hospital since April 2002. They would be happy to hear about your concerns if you have not already made them known to them.

You can contact the complaints department on 01329-229408.

3. The investigation into the care and treatment of inpatients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Please contact **Mary Stratford on 02380 725433**, if you would like details to be passed to Hampshire Constabulary.

4. The Action Group

As you may be aware, a group of relatives of people who received inpatient care and treatment at Gosport War Memorial Hospital have formed an Action Group. The Action Group can be contacted via Alexander Harris Solicitors. They can be contacted on **freephone 08000 774477**. There are two specific people who are working on this issue they are:- Claire Adams can be contacted on 0161 925 5551 or Lisa Elkin can be contacted on 0161 925 5598.