

Portsmouth Health Care NHS Trust

Received

24 JUL 2000

Lesley Humphrey

LH/YJM

General Manager, Fareham / Gosport

David Jarrett

Fiona Cameron

21 July 2000

CONFIDENTIAL**Police inquiries - Gosport War Memorial Hospital**

Thank you for your recent letter. I share your concerns for the staff involved. This is a very stressful situation for staff who every day need to manage the type of situation currently under scrutiny.

We have provided individual support, through the Trust's solicitors, in helping people prepare for interview. I hear that stress levels seem to reduce after interview. Jan Peach, Service Manager, and Maureen Mills, Personnel Manager, are regularly on the ward offering support.

The intention is to hold a group reflective session once all statements have been made; we are very nearly at that stage. I will be supporting this initiative in any way I can and I am sure that your input would also be valued if you are free and able to help. It was felt that to run such a session prior to the police interviews could be seen as collusion between staff.

As we discussed by telephone recently there is also scope for more general reflection on the management of end of life care, in particular the involvement/informing relatives in the decision making process.

The police have informally informed me that they should have completed their inquiries by the end of this week. The next stage apparently is for Professor Livesey to be asked to consider the evidence gathered. I presume that after this the Crown Prosecution Service would then be asked to decide if there is a potential criminal case to be answered.

Best wishes.

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