

# CONFIDENTIAL

**Hampshire**   
 Primary Care Trust

## Gosport War Memorial Hospital Time line of key events

| Chronology of Events        |  |   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Date                        | Event  | Note  |
| 1980                        | Dr JB contracts with Health Authority to work at GWMH  |   |
| 1988                        | New contract for Dr JB with Health Authority.  |   |
| 1991                        | First formal letter sent expressing concerns at prescribing practice and use of syringe drivers at Redclyffe Annexe. More detail in separate dedicated document. This dedicated document refers to concerns having been raised two years earlier, and them not being addressed since then. |   |
| 1994                        | Portsmouth Healthcare Trust (PHCT) established. Provides care at all community hospitals in SE Hants. Service management and medical staff come from Medicine for Elderly People division, and nursing staff managed by F&G division of PHCT   | New service provider taking over responsibility from the Health Authority |
| 1995                        | Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust established. Provides acute care in this area.  |   |
| 1996                        | Leslie Pittock died – Dryad Ward<br>Elsie Lavender died – Daedalus Ward<br>Robert Wilson died – Dryad Ward   | All highlighted patients have family members on witness list              |
| 1997                        | Helena Service died – Dryad Ward   |   |
| 1998                        | Arthur Cunningham died – Dryad Ward<br>Ruby Lake died – Dryad Ward   |   |
| 1999                        | Enid Spurgin died – Dryad Ward<br>Geoffrey Packman died – Dryad Ward<br>Elsie Devine died – Dryad Ward<br>Sheila Gregory died – Dryad Ward.  |   |
| Dec 98 –<br>March 99        | Police conducted investigation into the death of Gladys Richards (RIP 22/08/98), but CPS decided insufficient evidence to prosecute.   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Police inv.   |
| Oct 99                      | Second Police investigation announced.   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Police inv.   |
| 2000                        | Staff grade took up post at GWMH, replacing clinical assistant (Dr JB)   |   |
| 2001<br>March 01            | Independent Review into death of Elsie Devine. Local media coverage leads to other families coming forward with concerns.  |   |
| 2001<br>onwards<br>April 01 | Dr JB enters into voluntary agreement to restrict her prescribing and for her prescribing to be monitored. PCPCT established   | New service provider  |

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| Aug 01    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Police investigation concludes insufficient evidence for prosecution, but have concerns about practices at GWMH and refer to CHI.  |                                |
| Oct 01    | CHI starts investigation.  | CHI                            |
| 2002      | PHCT dissolved, and F&G PCT and EH PCTs established. Management of wards and employment of nurses at GWMH transferred to F&GPCT, whilst management of Medicine for Elderly People service, including employment of medical staff working at GWMH, transferred to EHPCT.  | New service providers          |
| July 2002 | CHI reports. 1991 events made public. SHA set up helpline as more families come forward with concerns.   | CHI                            |
| Sept 02   | Police begin collating evidence for 3 <sup>rd</sup> investigation. Chief Executives of F&G PCT and E Hants PCT temporarily redeployed whilst independent investigation commissioned by SHA/PCT initiated. This was because they were party to management decisions taken in 1991.  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Police inv.    |
| Nov 02    | Joint Action Plan between F&G and EH PCTs to address recommendations made in CHI report approved by F&G PCT Board.   | CHI                            |
| March 03  | Chief Executives reinstated in their posts.  |                                |
| Jan 04    | F&G Clinical Governance group takes over responsibility for overseeing CHI Action Plan, which has met its objectives.  |                                |
| March 05  | F&G and EH PCTs linked into one cluster PCT  | New organisational arrangement |
| Sept 06   | F&G and EH PCT cluster formally dissolved.   |                                |
| Oct 06    | Portsmouth Hospitals Trust takes over the management of services for Medicine for Older People (DMOP). Now both nurses and medical staff have same employer. Dryad and Daedalus ward teams formally transferred to PHT, and so medical services for older people now provided in Collingwood and Ark Royal wards. CPS concludes the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Police investigation, saying insufficient evidence to prosecute any health care staff. | New service provider           |
| May 07    | Home Secretary ordered inquest into the deaths of 10 people at GWMH (listed earlier).  |                                |
| Aug 07    | Coroner met with Ministry of Justice and DH to discuss inquest   |                                |
| Dec 07    | GMC decides to hold hearing into deaths regarding the role of Dr J Barton  |                                |
| May 08    | Coroner opens and adjourns inquests into ten deaths at GWMH.   |                                |
| Jan 09    | Coroner holds pre-inquest review with families and legal teams from NHS and NMC.   |                                |
| March 09  | Inquests start.  |                                |

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## Abbreviations:

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| CHI    | Commission for Health Improvement   |
| CPS    | Crown Prosecution Service   |
| DMOP   | Division of Medicine for Older People, part of Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust |
| DH     | Department of Health  |
| F&GPCT | Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust  |
| GMC    | General Medical Council   |
| GWMH   | Gosport War Memorial Hospital   |
| NMC    | Nursing and Midwifery Council   |
| PCPCT  | Portsmouth City Primary Care Trust  |
| PHCT   | Portsmouth Healthcare NHS Trust   |
| SEPCT  | South East Hampshire Primary Care Trust                                       |
| SHA    | Strategic Health Authority  |

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