

CONFIDENTIAL**TERMS OF REFERENCE****Gosport War Memorial Hospital Inquests Stakeholder Steering Group****1. Status**

Hampshire Primary Care Trust (HPCT), Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust (PHT), Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust (HPT) and Portsmouth City Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCTPCT) (the Stakeholders) jointly resolve to establish the Gosport War Memorial Hospital Inquests Stakeholder Steering Group (ISSG)

The ISSG will be a non-executive, joint agency group with no executive powers, other than those specifically delegated in these Terms of Reference.

2. Purpose/ Objectives

The purpose of this steering group is to manage all aspects of the activity required to support the processes of the stakeholding organizations in relation to the forthcoming inquests into the deaths of ten patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital between 1996 and 1999.

These processes will be directed by the Coroner and, through joint agreement, by the Chief Executive Officers of the stakeholding organizations.

The key aims of the ISSG will be to:

- Ensure a coordinated response to matters regarding the Coroner's Inquest;
- Ensure that appropriate support is offered to all staff;
- Provide the Coroner with information as directed in the course of the pre- and inquest phases;
- Through an agreed communications plan, maintain the confidence of patients and public in the services of all organizations involved and delivered by the local NHS;
- Preserve the reputation of the local NHS services involved in the inquests or delivery of local health services;
- Provide advice to stakeholder organizations on the opportunities to integrate clinical governance plans;
- Assure inter-organizational governance plans.

The ISSG will reflect these aims in a project plan which will identify key activities and timelines which will require the approval of the stakeholding organisations. The work of the ISSG will be supported through the appointment of a Project Manager on a fixed term basis.

3. Authority

The ISSG is authorised by the stakeholding organizations to manage the activity required in relation to the aforementioned inquests. This includes the receipt and retention of information from any employee or former employee of the stakeholding organisations.

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The Steering Group will be authorised to obtain outside legal or other independent professional advice or secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise without reference to the stakeholding organisations to which it is jointly accountable within a pre-determined budget.

4. Reporting

The members of the Steering Group will report back to their own organizations as most appropriate, and regular reports will be sent to the South Central Strategic Health Authority.

5. Membership

Richard Samuel, Director of Corporate Affairs HPCT (Chair)
 David Johnson, Company Secretary, HPCT
 Stuart Knowles, Mills & Reeve - legal representative, PHT
 Catherine Watson, Litigation Manager, HPT,
 Jonathan Green, Legal Representative, RCN
 Betty Woodland, RCN Representative
 Elaine Williams, Legal Services Manager, HPCT
 Ben Smith, Risk Manager, PCTPCT,
 Susannah Long, Business Assurance Manager, PCTPCT
 Justina Jeffs, Associate Director of Governance, PCTPCT
 Sue Skye, Legal Services Manager, PHT,
 Lesley Humphrey, DGM, Medicine for Older People, PHT
 Sara Tiller, Assistant Director, Communications, HPCT
 Patricia Radway, Head of Governance, PHT
 Mary Deeks, Project Officer, HPCT
 Benita Playfoot, SCSHA
 Elizabeth Emms, HPCT
 Sue Harriman, HPCT

(Kevin McNamara, South Central SHA, to be copied in for information)

6. Quorum

A meeting shall be quorate as long as representatives from both Portsmouth Hospitals Trust and Hampshire PCT are present, and the total numbers are six or more.

7. Action Notes

The ISSG will be supported by the Project Manager who will ensure all actions arising from meetings are recorded and that papers are coordinated and circulated, and that necessary steps are taken to further the work of the Steering Group.