

Baker Report – statement

Richard Samuel, chief officer at NHS Fareham & Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) said: “We welcome the publication of Professor Richard Baker’s report, and hope that this helps to bring closure to the families of those patients whose deaths in the 1990s have been the subject of numerous enquiries and investigations.

“We will need time to study the detail of Prof Baker’s 2002 report to fully assess whether any further action is required by the CCG.

“Previous investigations have included three by the police, all of which found that there was insufficient evidence to support any prosecution. In addition, the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) – the health regulator at the time – published a report with recommendations in 2002, all of which have been met. Eleven inquests have also taken place into deaths at the hospital, and a GMC hearing. We understand that the Baker report was used by all these bodies in undertaking their investigations.

“Much has changed at Gosport War Memorial Hospital in the last decade, in line with clinical developments across the country. Investment totalling £16.5 million has also been spent modernising the hospital.

“The CCG, which has been in operation since 1 April 2013, works closely with providers of healthcare services at the hospital, and monitors the quality of care that patients receive. Regular quality review meetings also take place with the trusts whose staff provide that care, and staff receive mandatory training every year.

“I would like to reassure local people that NHS Fareham & Gosport CCG is constantly working to ensure that patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital receive care of the highest order.”

ENDS

Notes to reporters:

1. It is recognised that national methods of capturing mortality data do not give a helpful picture of mortality in community or mental health hospitals, in part because relatively low bed numbers in individual sites can prevent meaningful statistical analysis. Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, which provides physical and mental health services at the hospital, is looking at working with the Health and Social Care Data Centre to consider ways to make quantitative analysis of mortality rates more meaningful.

2. The CHI was satisfied at the time of its report that Gosport War Memorial Hospital had adequate policies and guidelines in place governing the prescription and administration of pain-relieving medication to older patients, and that these policies and procedures were being adhered to. This remains the case.
3. NHS Fareham & Gosport CCG took over responsibility for commissioning healthcare for residents of the two towns on 1 April 2013, following the abolition of primary care trusts.