

Gosport Independent Panel

Minutes of the Panel Meeting

16 February 2016

Venue Wellington House, London, SE1

Present

Panel

Bishop James Jones (Chair, Gosport Independent Panel, BJJ)
 Colin Currie (CC)
 David Hencke (DH)
 Duncan Jarrett (DJ)
 Jim Smith (JS)
 Bill Kirkup (BK)
 Deborah Sturdy (DS)

Secretariat

Louise Dominian (Secretary, LD)
 Sarah Armstrong (SAr)
 Peter Burgin (PB)
 Code A
 Andy Fitt (AF)
 Judy Joslin (JJ)
 Code A
 Sarah Wishart (SW)
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Apologies

Kate Blackwell (KB)
 Christine Gifford (CG)

| | Agenda Item | Summary of discussion | Actions |
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| 1. | Introduction and Welcome | <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Kate Blackwell and Christine Gifford.</p> <p>The Chair explained that since the last Panel meeting he had met with the Department of Health's Permanent Secretary. She is due to leave the Department soon but will brief her successor on the Panel's work. She was particularly interested in the methodology used to engage with families, in particular that the Terms of Reference have been shaped by families and that Panel members with the appropriate expertise were then sought to deliver those Terms of Reference. She had taken note that this model should be replicated in the future.</p> <p>The Chair informed the Permanent Secretary that, whilst he is aware of the current austerity measures, he had accepted the appointment to Chair the Panel providing adequate resources were provided. At present, the Panel is continuing to unearth documents. The Permanent Secretary accepted this position.</p> | |

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| | | <p>The Chair reported that the Panel had a successful meeting yesterday which had allowed the Panel to look at different hypotheses and establish priorities.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Minutes of 19 January Panel meeting and matters arising</p> | <p>Panel members should ensure they are content with the minutes as recorded. The Panel minutes will eventually form a public record. The minutes of the Panel Meeting on 19 January were agreed with no amendments.</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p> | <p>a) BJJ signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Family Liaison Planning for the Family Liaison meeting on 23 February</p> <p>GIP/Paper 16.1</p> | <p><u>Update</u></p> <p>Since the last Panel meeting another family has come forward. This was a result of a letter sent by the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) to their stakeholders informing them that they were about to release information to the Panel. The family lives in London and was unaware of the Panel's existence. The total number of families the Panel is now in contact with is 101.</p> <p>The Panel was updated on the programme of work with families. Six home visits took place in January. During February follow up contact will be made with families to establish whether any material is held. Some material that has already been processed will be returned to families over the next month or two.</p> <p>A list of questions raised by one family has been compiled and shared with that family at their request.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that a proposal with options about the treatment of family questions should be brought to the March Panel meeting.</p> <p>Some families may have received compensation. Two applications have been identified. Offers of compensation do not usually confirm liability and will contain a confidentiality clause.</p> <p>The Panel would like to see the judgements from both the Packman and Ripley cases.</p> <p><u>Family Liaison Meeting – 23 February</u></p> <p>For the February Family Liaison meeting, 42 families have so far replied and 50 people have said they will attend.</p> <p>The psychological leaflet has gone to the printers and copies will be available at the meeting.</p> | <p>b) PB to ask the NMC for the number of families they wrote to</p> <p>c) JJ to consider with the Review Team the treatment of the families questions and to bring a proposal to the March meeting</p> <p>d) The Review Team to include details from both judgements in March's Panel paper</p> |

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| | | <p>Briefing and Q&A will be sent to Panel Members with the joining instructions by Friday 19 February.</p> <p>There are four family meetings scheduled for this year. All Panel Members will attend the February meeting then future meetings will be attended by a sub-group of the Panel. Families will be informed about the formation of the sub-group at the February meeting.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Access Workstream Progress Report</p> <p>GIP/Paper 16.2</p> | <p>The Panel was updated on progress with key stakeholders. Most of the organisations that might have material have responded to our contact and those who have responded have done so positively.</p> <p>The paper states that there is a 'suggestion' that Hampshire Police made a complaint against the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in relation to the way in which the decision not to prosecute was taken. However, the minutes of a meeting state that a complaint was made against the CPS and therefore the paper should be amended to say that 'unusually, there is a minute indicating a complaint was made against the CPS'.</p> <p>The Chair has written to Andy Marsh, the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset.</p> <p>The Chair will consider writing to Niall Dixon, Chief Executive of the General Medical Council (GMC) to speed up release of their material.</p> <p>The Panel needs to ensure that it has looked at all documents relating to Gosport as this is a document based investigation. An options paper will be brought to the next Panel Meeting to consider how the Panel will ensure access to all relevant documentation in a large number of boxes held by Southern Health.</p> <p>The Department of Health (DH) has offered to write to the Portsmouth Trust asking them to release their documents. DH will be made aware of the fact that Portsmouth is a Foundation Trust.</p> <p>It has been made clear that any organisations failing to</p> | <p>e) PB to amend paper to say that 'unusually, there is a minute indicating a complaint was made against the CPS'</p> <p>f) BJJ to consider writing to the Chief Executive of the GMC to speed up the release of their material</p> <p>g) PB to bring an options paper to the March Panel meeting on accessing relevant documents held by Southern Health</p> <p>h) Code A inform DH of the Portsmouth Trust's status as a</p> |

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| | | <p>provide material promptly will be named in the final report laid in Parliament.</p> <p>March's Panel paper will include details of cases where the medical records have been located.</p> | <p>Foundation Trust</p> <p>i) PB to include cases where medical records have been located in March's Panel paper</p> |
| 5. | <p>Review Workstream Progress Report</p> <p>GIP/Paper 16.3</p> | <p>The Panel was updated on progress across the Review workstrands.</p> <p>The historic media review will be placed within the Networks' workstrand.</p> <p>It is surprising that there was no identifiable local press coverage to be found relating to the hospital in the early 1990s. The editor at the time will be identified and correspondence received by the paper between the years 1991 – 1999 requested.</p> <p>The Panel will also look at any nursing journals from this period.</p> <p>The final report structure is a work in progress and needs to be suitably flexible until the Panel know where its work is leading.</p> <p>Examples of good reports should be brought to the Panel's attention.</p> <p>Fact checking of the report has been planned for and will be done in sections to ensure that the families are first to see the report in its entirety.</p> <p>The update on the Clinical Ascertainment Pilot Programme (CAPP) will include interim case summaries and will be brought to the March meeting.</p> <p>The Regulatory workstrand is now in place. A preliminary synopsis of the key investigations that are relevant to Gosport will be prepared. Panel Members should contact Roger Milburn with details of any elements they want covered in the synopsis.</p> <p>The Investigative workstrand is focussing on the Comparative Analysis Document (CAD). There will be</p> | <p>j) Access and Review teams to follow up on gaps in coverage at the local paper and identify any further material required</p> <p>k) CC/SW to include Interim case summaries at the March meeting</p> |

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| | | <p>one CAD for each patient.</p> <p>There will be a period of time after the report has been released when individual interactions with families will take place. This will need to be handled very sensitively including cases where there may be gaps in evidence.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>Highlight Report and High level plan</p> <p>GIP/Paper 16.4</p> | <p>The Department of Health has recently announced staff changes which include an accommodation move, a commitment to priorities and flexible working. DH will be reducing its staffing by around 30% over the next 12 months.</p> <p>A shared IT workspace has been developed. This is a secure area for storing and sharing documents. It has been tested amongst some Panel Members and seems to be working well so will be rolled out to all Panel Members over the next two or three weeks. The March Panel papers will be shared via this new workspace.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Forward Look</p> <p>GIP/Paper 16.5</p> | <p>The Permanent Secretary had recommended a book, <i>The Unmasking of Medicine</i>, by Ian Kennedy, and this will be considered for a future Panel meeting.</p> | |
| 8 | AOB | <p>None</p> <p>The meeting ended at 12.45pm</p> | |

Code A

15/3/16

