

# Gosport Independent Panel

## Minutes of the Panel Meeting

### 15 October 2015

**Venue** Wellington House, London, SE1

**Present**

**Panel**

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

**Secretariat**

Louise Dominian (Secretary, LD)  
 Sarah Armstrong (SAr)  
 Peter Burgin (PB)  
Code A  
 Judy Joslin (JJ)  
Code A  
 Tracy Ofeosi (TO)  
Code A  
 Sarah Wishart (SW)

Code A

**Apologies** None

	Agenda Item	Summary of discussion	Actions
1.	Introduction and Welcome	The Chair welcomed the new Secretariat team members, <span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">Code A</span> to the meeting.	
2.	Minutes of 15 September Panel meeting and matters arising	The minutes of the Panel meeting on 15 September were agreed with no amendments.	a) BJJ signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
3.	Family Liaison Update & Agenda for October's Meeting  GIP/Paper 12.1	<u>Engagement with Families</u>  More families have come forward in response to the Panel's efforts to encourage anyone with historic concerns about the treatment of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH) to contact the Panel. To date (as of 15 October) the Panel is in contact with 90 families relating to 89 deceased patients. 34 of the 90 families were part of Operation Rochester with 3 further families reporting deaths to the Police. Eighty eight percent of the new families had signed the authorisation letter as of 15 October.	

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		<p><u>Communication Activity</u></p> <p>The Bishop’s letter to families inviting them to the October Family Liaison meeting set out the number of families in contact with the Panel since it was announced in July. The Bishop subsequently issued a statement to the Gosport regional press on the number of families and a covering letter thanking them for engaging in the recent Panel communication activity.</p> <p>The communication activity covered the regional dimension; further consideration will be given to include people with concerns who might have moved away from Gosport and surrounding areas.</p> <p>The purpose of the Panel’s communication activity is clear: to ensure anyone who is not in contact with the Panel and wishes to raise historic concerns about the treatment of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital has an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>ITV intends to run a fresh appeal on 15 October and requested an interview with the Bishop as part of the appeal. The Bishop has declined further local interviews on the basis of no piecemeal disclosure. He will discuss the Panel’s work <u>after</u> the Panel’s final report is published in Parliament.</p> <p><u>October’s Family Liaison Meeting</u></p> <p>Acceptances to the invitation so far indicate a high number of new families may attend the Family Liaison meeting in October. The briefing for Panel members will provide details on the final number of families expected at the meeting. A meeting room will be made available before and after the Panel meeting for families to meet on their own.</p> <p>Panel members will be available to meet and talk to families before the meeting and during lunch, should families wish to engage Panel members. Listening to families is critical for the Panel and Secretariat members at the meeting.</p>	<p>b) JJ will set out proposals for using national media routes to reach people – who have moved outside of the Gosport and surrounding areas - with historic concerns about GWMH at November’s Panel meeting.</p> <p>c) JJ to decline the ITV’s request to interview the Bishop</p>

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4.	<p>Access Workstream Progress Report</p> <p>GIP/Paper 12.2</p>	<p>The Panel was updated on progress to engage organisations listed in the Stakeholder dashboard (Paper 12.2b refers). Transparent and candid discussions have been held with organisations identified as holding relevant material and they are cooperating with the Panel.</p> <p>The Stakeholder dashboard has been updated to illustrate where material has been collected and catalogued. The process of cataloguing, digitisation and uploading material onto Relativity is continuing. Redaction of the relevant material in discussion with organisations will then follow.</p> <p>The Access Team will provide technical forensic support where it is essential to support organisations in searching their complex archives/electronic systems.</p>	<p>d) PB and CG to arrange for Panel members to access Relativity on 26 October.</p> <p>e) PB to explore whether the Panel can access TV and Radio material which has never been broadcast.</p> <p>f) PB and SW to liaise over the availability of press material held by the organisations listed in the Stakeholder dashboard to the media review.</p> <p>g) CG and PB to provide a summary of the progress with the six to seven key stakeholders at the November Panel meeting.</p>
5.	<p>Review Workstream - Progress report</p> <p>GIP/Paper 12.3</p>	<p>The Review Team updated the Panel on work to date. Analytical projects are being progressed. Initial research has begun on sources of information for creating a “Working Family Tree” which will establish who was in charge and working in the GWMH during the relevant period and when changes from a policy or practical perspective occurred. This supersedes previous projects on structures and guidelines in operation at the GWMH.</p> <p>The Clinical Ascertainment Pilot Phase (CAPP) (formerly The Families-Led Pilot Ascertainment Phase (FLPAP) is underway. The findings from the CAPP will provide an initial steer on the Panel’s emerging thinking and approach to the questions identified by families.</p> <p>The Review Team has also been exploring ways of integrating Relativity and the Comparative Analysis Document (CAD). New areas of configuration are being developed for the CAD.</p>	<p>h) SW to provide an update at the November Panel meeting on all the analytical projects</p> <p>i) SW/PB to identify the Attorney Generals in post and explore with the AG’s private office whether they hold relevant material.</p> <p>j) CAPP findings will come to the Panel on at the 8 December Panel meeting.</p>

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6.	<p>Review of patients' date of death - emerging findings</p> <p>GIP/Paper 12.4</p>	<p>The findings from the review of patients' date of death are preliminary and flag up areas for further investigation. The Panel emphasised the importance of guarding itself against any form of possible bias and reiterated that further thinking is crucial to test hypotheses.</p> <p>The analysis illustrates the following in relation to deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low activity rates from 1982 - 1988</li> <li>• Steadily rising activity between 1989 - 1997</li> <li>• Intense activity and clusters from August 1998 – September 1999</li> <li>• Rapid decline in activity from 2000</li> </ul> <p>The Panel considered questions and issues emerging from the data as signposts for further investigation.</p>	<p>k) BK to send the presentation to TO for onward transmission to Panel members.</p> <p>l) The Review team to undertake further investigation into the issues and questions flagged in the presentation in particular linking evidence from the analysis of those working and in charge at the hospital (item 5 above).</p> <p>m) BK to consider any further analysis (for example looking at time from admission to death) which might assist with the interpretation of the statistical series.</p>
7	<p>A Nursing retrospective of the last three decades</p> <p>GIP/Paper 12.5</p>	<p>The presentation provided an overview of the history of nursing and care during the period of interest at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. The cultural difference between mainstream and isolated services was highlighted. The characteristics of an isolated insular community hospital culture were discussed – stagnation of staff, minimal experience of nursing outside of the local environment, a sense of not being proficient and lack of progress and incentives.</p> <p>The Professional Code of Conduct is the benchmark for Nurses. It has changed in response to events over the years. Nurses make a clinical assessment before prescribing a drug. Relationships between the different healthcare professionals looking after patients have changed over the years with new roles for nurses. However, effective practice has not been implemented everywhere at the same rate.</p> <p>The overview of nursing was linked to the events at Gosport and the areas to review in the CAPP. This included how and when the nurses worked at the</p>	<p>n) DS to provide TO with the Nursing Code of Conduct used in the 80s and 90s for onward transmission to Panel members.</p>

	Agenda Item	Summary of discussion	Actions
		Gosport War Memorial Hospital, how the professional Code of Conduct was interpreted, their relationships with doctors and their patients and the autonomy of the doctor in relation to the families.	
8	Highlight Report and High level plan  GIP/Paper 12.6	This was covered within the Workstream updates in items 3-5 above.	
9	Forward Look  GIP/Paper 12.7	<p>The Panel will review “The Doctor’s Tale: Professionalism and Public Trust” by Donald Irvine from a medical and non-medical perspective at November’s Panel meeting.</p> <p>Three additional informal “offsite” Panel meetings have been secured in 2016 for creative thinking and to test hypotheses. The meetings are in addition to the scheduled Panel meetings in 2016. The dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• afternoon/evening of Monday 15th Feb</li> <li>• afternoon/evening of Monday 20th June</li> <li>• afternoon/evening of Monday 14th Nov</li> </ul>	o) TO to circulate a revised schedule of Panel meetings to include the three new slots.
10	AOB	<p>None</p> <p>The meeting ended at 1pm.</p>	