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More cases in Gosport wards probe

THE SOLICITOR spearheading an By Siân Davies action group formed by relatives of elderly patients who died while Gosport War Memorial Hospital says a number of potential new cases have come to light.

Since forming the Gosport War Memorial Action Group solicitor Ann Alexander has taken calls from eight further families expressing concern over the care their loved ones received while at the hospital.

Ms Alexander, the solicitor who represented more than 300 relatives in the Harold Shipman inquiry, said since launching the group more people have come forward.

"We are going to be investigating some eight new claims concerning treatment of elderly patients while at Gosport War Memorial Hospital. These have come in as a result of the forming of the action group and will be investigated by our team."

The action group was formed last month and represents the families of 13 patients who have all raised serious concerns over the treatment their elderly relatives received in the late 1990s.

Hampshire police have also worked on a new investigation into the families' claims after a previous inquiry into unlawful killing was halted due to a lack of evidence.

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Relatives including Gillian Mackenzie whose mother died at the hospital in 1998 pressed for the case to be reopened after a damning report by the Commission for Health Improvement was published.

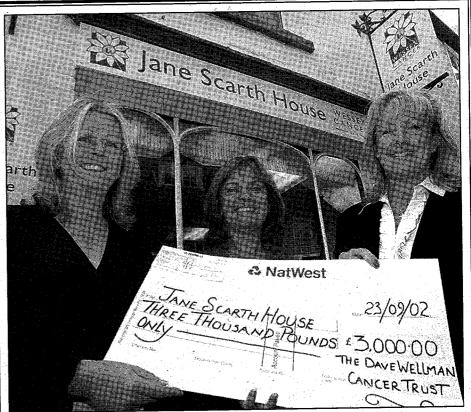
The inquiry found "serious concerns regarding the quality, combination, lack of review and anticipatory prescribing of medicines to older people.

Last month it was also revealed by Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust that their chief executive Ian Piper was to be reassigned after a document expressing concerns about the administration of drugs from 1991 was discovered.

This has now been passed to the police.

A spokeswoman for Hampshire police said: "The file that has been compiled by police has now been passed to the CPS from whom we are waiting to hear.'

The government has also launched a top level probe spearheaded by Richard Baker who was responsible for examining the medical records of Harold Shipman's patients. His remit is to study statistical analysis at the Gosport Cottage Hospital to determine whether the deaths were out of line with what would be expected.



THANK YOU: Tina Wellman, left, presents the cheque to Jane Scoones and Jane Carley of Wessex Cancer Trust.

Echo picture by Malcolm Nethersole. Order no: h2w5ual4

Tina triumphs again

TIRELESS fundraiser Tina Wellman-Hawke handed over yet another cheque last week - this time for £3,000 to a cancer charity.

Since her husband Dave died of cancer in 1999, Tina has raised about £40,000 for local cancer charities, mainly through her annual summer ball held in his memory.

Last year's event raised £18,000 of which last week's donation was the final part.

The money will go Jane Scarth

By Dan Newling

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House in Romsey, which is run by the Wessex Cancer Trust to provide complementary healthcare and support to people with cancer and their families.

Tina, of Church Hill, West End, said: "It feels good that something good is coming out of something bad. I hope this will help to save

