

Diary of Events to do with GWMH and CEO

Week beg 9th September

News about Prof Bakers audit begins to come through to us. Awareness that this will bring more anxiety for staff and patients

Friday 13th.

We are asked by DOH at extremely short notice (one Hour) to deliver letters to all relatives concerning the announcement and also to speak personally to them all if possible. Staff concerned also to be spoken to. All work stops in the outer office while this is sorted out and accomplished.

Sat 14th Article in the Guardian

Sunday 15th

Article in the Sunday Times about the GP and the situation. Some names are given.

Monday 16th

I go down to GWMH to talk to staff about Prof Baker's audit and to try and reassure them. Talk to about 30 staff in the seminar room, all anxious. After the meeting a dossier is handed to Toni Scammell containing new evidence about staff worries over drug prescriptions. This dates the concerns to 1991 We meet back at Fareham reach to plan our next moves. We inform the SHA of the dossier and agree to take it over to them on Tuesday am. Kathryn, Ian, Jane, Jan Peach, Sue Galley and myself work on next steps. Intense concern and anxiety as to why we have never heard about this before.

Tuesday 17th

I go to meeting with the OT's at QA (life must go on) Talk to Jack Climpson afterwards. Meeting at Fareham reach in the afternoon to plan next moves. The document has been seen by SHA and Simon Tanner. Involvement of the Regional Nurse. Query as to whether we should suspend any nurses. Decision taken not to in the light of comments from the NMC that they will probably adjourn any hearings until after Prof Baker has finished his report. Decide to bring in Ray Greenwoods idea of a senior outside nurse. to help with confidence at the hospital

Weds 18th

I am called to the SHA at very short notice just after I arrive at work. When I get to Oakley Road I meet with Peter Bingham and Gareth Crudace. They inform me that there has been much debate by themselves and DHSC people the night before about what to do with the info in the dossier. They believe I have no option but to temporarily suspend Ian. They try to make me believe that this is a neutral act and that it will not affect Ian's career. I argue that everyone knows this not to be the case, Ian will be seen to be tainted if suspended and will never come back to us. I ask if we can do this legally, am told yes. They tell me that I have no option and that if I refuse I will get a letter from Gareth ordering me to do it. If I still refuse I will be sacked. They argue that it is in Ian's own interests as well as the public confidence in the NHS for

him to stand aside while the investigations go on into the dossier. In the end I agree as I am given no alternative.

I talk to Ian. He is very distressed. He argues that if the investigation is not conclusive he will not be able to come back, that his credibility will never recover. I discuss with him what the options are and leave him to decide what to do. I take time out to talk to Jane Parvin who has questioned two of the staff about the dossier.(separate note)

I am aware that Margaret is getting the same treatment as me over Tony. We meet to talk together. She and I both agree that we cannot support the phrase "temporary suspension " but will agree to temporary redeployment. We argue this through with Gareth and Peter who agree to try and persuade the DHSC. We decide to remain firm on this point and to try not to budge. By the end of the afternoon we have acceptance for the new wording. Ian and Tony have been provided with support in terms of a place to go which is away from the area, access to Rob Dalton for media advice and the offer of legal support. They are still on full pay. I talk to Alan Pickering and ask him if he will act up as Chief Exec and he says Yes. The SHA will be handling the press announcements. The PCT will have to wait to do anything until the Police have been informed . I am conscious that all day the staff at the PCT have been wondering what is going on and they still have not had any answers. I leave at 6.30pm to go to the Mayflower.