

Sue Galley - PR Communications Manager

From: Sue Galley - PR & Communications Manager
Sent: 07 February 2003 17:07
To: Lucy Docherty - Chair F&G PCT; Margaret Scott - Chair EHPCT; 'Lucy Docherty'
Cc: David Barker
Subject: Statements plus Q&As

Importance: High
Sensitivity: Confidential

Margaret/Lucy

I have had a conversation with Adrian this afternoon following receipt of the Hants Constabulary letter. Adrian has said that there is a possibility Gareth Cruddace will, in his CE Report to the SHA Board (public meeting) on Tuesday say something along the lines that the NHS investigations are being suspended. We may need to have a statement ready just in case we are asked by the media about the CEs. My thoughts are:

"We have recently been informed of the advice given by Hampshire Constabulary that all NHS investigations should be put on hold until the police investigations into the care and treatment of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital are completed. The Primary Care Trust therefore needs to work through the implications following this advice."

Please let me have your comments/amendments.

Questions which we are likely to receive when we are a little further down the road could be:

Q. How long will the police investigation take?

A. It is difficult to say, because when the police have completed their investigations the case work is passed to the Crown Prosecution Service who may come back to the police with further queries.

Q. Is it really safe for the Chief Executives to return to work?

A. Yes.

Q. What happens at the end of the investigation?

A. We cannot pre-judge. However, when the police investigation is completed the NHS will be able to consider what, if any further internal investigation is required.

Q. What exactly are the police investigating?

A. They are looking into all areas of the care and treatment of patients at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Q. What has changed in the past four months?

A. Since September 2002 the police investigation has been ongoing. The NHS has been considering very carefully what internal investigation should be carried out that the police are not covering. We have come to the conclusion that at this point in time any internal investigation could potentially hinder police investigations and we need to review this decision after the police investigations have been completed.

Q. Why were the Chief Executives temporarily re-deployed in the first place?

A. At the time when additional information had come to light it was felt appropriate to temporarily redeploy the Chief Executives to ensure that ongoing investigations were, and were seen to be, fully independent and able to command the trust of local people.

Q. What are the next steps?

A. The police investigations are continuing.

A. What has happened to the clinical audit being undertaken by Professor Richard Baker?

Q. **Awaiting SHA response**

Q. What about the GP - is she still practicing?

A. Yes. The General Medical Council investigation has been put on hold.

Q. What about the nurses who were reported to the NMC?

A. The investigation has also been put on hold.

Shared messages

- Reinforce public messages - The hospital now has policies and guidelines in place governing drug prescribing and the supervision of clinical staff. There are no concerns about the standards of nursing care provided at the hospital now.
- The concerns relate to inpatient services in the past. Not to any services at the hospital now.
- It is appropriate and usual for internal investigations to be put on hold whilst a police investigation is being undertaken.
- Reiterate the validity of the police investigation.

I would welcome your comments to the above and any additional questions you may have.

Thank you.

Sue