

**Confidential**

**Hampshire**   
 Primary Care Trust

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 11.00 to 12.30**  
**Room 11, Quad Centre,**  
**Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham**  
**Meeting regarding Gosport War Memorial Hospital –**  
**Coroner's Inquests**

**Action Notes**

**Present:**

Richard Samuel (Chair)  
 Sara Tiller  
 Mary Deeks  
 Julie Dean (Trimedia)  
 Caroline Searle  
 Betty Woodland  
 Elaine Williams  
 Jill Mason

Peter Mellor  
 Emma Topping  
 Benita Playfoot  
 Toni Scammell  
 Emma Topping  
 Neil Martin  
 Allison Stratford  
 Stuart Knowles

Item		Action
1	<b>Apologies:</b> Elizabeth Emms, Sue Harriman, David Johnson, Patricia Radway, Allison Stratford, Catherine Watson (Apologies received post-meeting from Susannah Long and Ben Smith.)	
2	<b>Notes of the last meeting:</b> The notes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.	
3	<b>Matters Arising:</b> 3.1 SK asked for comments on LH's statement to go to him. LH stated that the document was only her recollection, and not intended to be anything other than that. She would ask for her name to be removed from it if it were represented as anything else. 3.2 Storyboard: Please send addition/comments to MD by 16 January.	ALL
4	<b>Progress by sub-groups</b> <b>4.1 Communications:</b> Two documents were tabled. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first contained suggestions for spokespeople. It was agreed that ST would pull together a spokespersons group.</li> <li>• The second was the communications action plan for comment. Further documents to be circulated by email. It was agreed that when finalised the strategic aims should be converted into messages reflected in the plan. ST to update Graham Groves, Comms lead at the SHA. ST to produce weekly update to circulate to RS and PM via MD.</li> <li>• It was agreed that by the February meeting the comms and legal teams would have arrived at proposed statements around the story. To be circulated one week before the next meeting, ie 26<sup>th</sup> January. Clinicians to be involved.</li> </ul> <b>4.2 Legal issues.</b> SK gave a verbal report, having tabled an agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose of the inquest: SK stated that the inquest will be an investigation into how the patients met their deaths, not a wider 'Article 2' investigation. Questioning under Rule 43 (for the prevention of future deaths) was possible</li> </ul>	ST  ST  ST ST ST/Legal Teams

	<p>due the time that has elapsed, and we will need to be able to assure the coroner that the same issues would not arise now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current position with the Coroner: not replied to enquiries about venue etc.</li> <li>• Return of documents from the Police: The coroner has authorised the police to release the medical records. SK to liaise.</li> <li>• Update on the position with counsel: A provisional date for briefing counsel has been arranged for 23<sup>rd</sup> January.</li> <li>• Defence organisations: the MPS do not see a conflict of interests between the interests of PHT and its consultants. Dr JB is being represented by the MDU. Dr IR (PHT) has a copy of the police's expert evidence for review, and may decide to go to his professional defence organisation in the light of it. SK and CG from the NMC will discuss potential conflicts of interest when the comms documents are finalised. CG to ask the NMC if the cases against the nurses have been closed.</li> <li>• Staff briefing and support: SK had conducted two staff briefings in December, one at PHT and one at GWMH.</li> <li>• Evidential position: Although it was agreed that preparations must be made for the intense questioning that the AVMA barrister will want to ask, there is no need to proffer the evidence if not asked. Statements may need to be taken from other members of staff in case needed.</li> <li>• The timeline produced by LH will need additional dates inserting, such as the dates of the different organisational restructuring.</li> </ul>	<p>SK</p> <p>SK/CG</p> <p>CG</p> <p>SK</p> <p>MD</p>
5	<p><b>Feedback on Actions</b></p> <p><b>5.1 CHI action plans:</b> MD reported that all organisations had delivered their CHI action plans in a timely way, but the evidence base from PCT/PCT and HPT was awaited. Eileen Spiller and Keith Ollerhead would now conduct a paper-based assurance exercise, the output of which would be a brief summary of assurance derived from the evidence, which would be sent to the SHA. Organisations are asked to get sign off for their action plans from within their organisation by February 6<sup>th</sup>. If it is signed off by a committee it must be a committee that reports to the Trust Board. The outcome of the ES/KO review will be circulated to organisations by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p><b>5.2 History storyboard:</b> As in final bullet point of legal input: the timeline needs additional dates to be added in order to be useful to the legal team. All to contribute, dates to MD.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>MD</p> <p>MD</p>
6	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>No further business was raised and the meeting closed.</p>	
7	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009, 11.00 – 12.30, Room 8, Dame Judith Professional Centre, Sundridge Close, Cosham, PO6 3JL. Please note the change in venue and time. Link to map:  <a href="http://www.streetmap.co.uk/newmap.srf?x=465580&amp;y=105760&amp;z=0&amp;sv=po6%203jl&amp;st=2&amp;tl=Postcode%20po6%203jl&amp;pc=po6%203jl&amp;mapp=newmap.srf&amp;searchp=newsearch.srf">http://www.streetmap.co.uk/newmap.srf?x=465580&amp;y=105760&amp;z=0&amp;sv=po6%203jl&amp;st=2&amp;tl=Postcode%20po6%203jl&amp;pc=po6%203jl&amp;mapp=newmap.srf&amp;searchp=newsearch.srf</a></p>	

**Distribution list****Portsmouth City Teaching PCT**

Ben Smith (BS), Susannah Long (SL), Justina Jeffs (JJ)

**Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust**

Patricia Radway (PR), Sue Skye (SS), Lesley Humphrey (LH formerly PHT staff), Peter Mellor (PM) Emma Topping (ET) Allison Stratford (AS), Neil Martin (NM)

**Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust**

Pat Shirley (PS), Catherine Watson (CW)

**Hampshire PCT**

Richard Samuel (RS), (Chairman), Sara Tiller (ST), Elaine Williams (EW),  
Mary Deeks (MD), David Johnson (DJ), Elizabeth Emms (EE), Sue Harriman (SH), Toni  
Scammell (TS)

**Trimedia**

Caroline Searle (CS), Julie Dean (JD)

**SHA Representative**

Benita Playfoot (BP) [Graham Groves (GG) for info]

**Legal Representative**

Kiran Bhogal (KB), Jill Mason (JM)

**RCN Representative**

Betty Woodland (BW)

**RCN Legal Representative**

Chris Green (CG)