

27 disciplinary hearings at unit that neglected tragic Harry

# COCK-UP HOSPITAL 'FAILING'

**A HOSPITAL blamed over the death of a five-year-old boy has been mired in allegations of wrongdoing, we can reveal.**

Milton Keynes Hospital was slammed by a coroner for a "gross failure to provide basic medical attention" to asthmatic schoolboy Harry Mould.

His inquest last December heard that after being admitted with breathing difficulties Harry, inset, was "neglected" by staff.

He went several hours without seeing a doctor and nurses had to be reminded to administer medication, the coroner heard.

Harry, inset, was later transferred to intensive care in Leicester where he died.

After the coroner's scathing verdict the hospital apologised and said lessons had been learned.

But a Daily Star Sunday investigation has uncovered a catalogue of shocking claims against staff - including criminal acts.

Since Harry's death in 2009 there have been four internal probes into alleged ill-treatment of patients.

Two cases of compromising patient safety and another two involving medication errors have also been investigated.

And two thefts, a fraud and a data protection breach have been looked at.

In total there have been at least 27 disciplinary hearings, including four over "aggressive/inappropriate behaviour" and six involving "failure to follow reporting procedures/alleged deliberate failure to obey reasonable management instructions".

There are separate claims that alleged slow medical treatment may have contributed to an elderly patient's death.

Harry's mum Odette said: "I don't know what is wrong with the hospital but there are problems there. What you've found does

by JONATHAN CORKE

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worry me but it doesn't surprise me. I put my trust in people I thought knew what they should be doing. I relied on them and now I no longer have my son with me."

Despite coroner Donald Coutts-Wood ruling that Harry died from "natural causes contributed to by neglect" the staff involved in his case are still employed by the hospital trust after being retrained.

Odette and husband Lee are seeking compensation, which the hospital has said it will not contest.

But any money they do receive is unlikely to cover more than their legal fees.

For now, the couple, who live in Greenleys, Bucks, are concentrating on a charity set up in Harry's name.

Harry's Rainbow aims to help bereaved children and families find support.

The couple struggled to find help, particularly for Harry's twin sister Jessica, after his death.

Odette said: "We didn't get any support. We had to actively seek it out. I had to trawl the internet."

Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust says it is carrying out a further investigation into Harry's death.

The trust also confessed there may have been more than 27 disciplinary cases since 2009 but was unable to provide the details.

In response to a Freedom of Information request it said: "A central database of disciplinary cases was not in place prior to 2010 therefore these figures may not be complete."

"Further confirmation of 2009 data is not available without extensive manual search and therefore would exceed the appropriate time limit."

● Log on to [harrysrainbow.co.uk](http://harrysrainbow.co.uk).



**CAMPAIGN:** Jonathan Ross with Lorraine and, inset, Penny Lancaster with Oscar



**Celebs' boost for Oscar charity**

by ELLA BUCHAN  
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**CELEBRITIES** from Jonathan Ross to JLS are backing a mum's campaign to find a cure for her son's disease.

Lorraine Thomas aims to raise £1million in just ten months to fund research into Lowe Syndrome - a rare, incurable and degenerating condition that affects the brain, eyes, kidneys, bones and muscles.

All children with the syndrome are born with cataracts in their eyes, leaving them blind or partially sighted, and some children never walk or talk. It can also cause muscle weakness or "floppy baby syndrome".

Lorraine's son Oscar was diagnosed at the age of five and was not expected to live long.

He is now a remarkable 17 but, like so many others, his future depends on the research funded by the Lowe Syndrome Trust, set up by Lorraine in 2000.

The only charity funding research into Lowe Syndrome, it has already raised £1million.

But Lorraine now aims to double that in just ten months with the backing of celebrities including Nicola Roberts, Penny Lancaster and Rod Stewart, Melanie C, Tony Hadley and Dame Shirley Bassey.

All Saints star Melanie Blatt is also a patron of the charity.

Lorraine's "Celebrity Garden of Hope" campaign, where people can choose from a range of celebrity supporters and then help that celebrity's tree "grow" online, invites people to donate £5 per leaf.

She said: "Having a son diagnosed with Lowe Syndrome is the most heartbreaking and frightening experience.

"No child should suffer in this way. With further funding, help for Oscar and the thousands of other children is almost tangible."

See [gardenofhope.co.uk](http://gardenofhope.co.uk).



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