

**For the Record – Press Statements**

<b>Publication</b>	Express and Star
<b>Date of article</b>	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2012
<b>Reporter</b>	Elizabeth Joyce
<b>Headline</b>	New Cross fury over vascular unit launch
<b>First paragraph/s of article</b>	<p>A specialist centre for vascular surgery is to be launched at Dudley’s Russells Hall Hospital – a move which health bosses in Wolverhampton say will put patients’ lives at risk.</p> <p>From April, vascular surgeons and specialists from all over the Black Country will be based in Dudley but Wolverhampton’s New Cross Hospital says that this will break up its renowned team at its Heart and Lung Centre.</p>
<b>Press enquiry</b>	Can we comment on David Loughton’s claim that the vascular hub will break up his heart and lung team and put lives at risk?
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p>The Dudley Group has been commissioned by the Black Country Cluster of Primary Care Trusts (PCT) to provide a networked service to improve vascular care to patients in Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton in line with national guidance.</p> <p>Patient safety and improving clinical outcomes were of paramount importance in the decision to develop vascular services in this way.</p> <p>Black Country hospitals were invited to put forward a plan to provide a centre of excellence for vascular surgical services. Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust and The Dudley Group submitted plans.</p> <p>The selection process was rigorous and included both eminent clinical experts and patients. The outcome of this lengthy, detailed and comprehensive selection process was that The Dudley Group was chosen to develop vascular services for the Black</p>	

Country.

Wolverhampton has been fully engaged in the development of a specialist centre and we are working cooperatively through the practicalities of the new service with their clinicians and those from Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust.