

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express and Star
Date of article	Tuesday 7 th February
Reporter	Mark Mudie
Headline	Patient death rates are higher than expected
First paragraph/s of article	More patients than expected are dying at three out of five hospital trusts in the West Midlands and Staffordshire, latest NHS figures show.
Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group	Dudley was the worst performing hospital trust in the region, recording a mortality rate of 112 on a scale measured where the expected death rate is set at 100.
Press enquiry	Can we comment on our higher than expected deaths?
Trust response	
<p>The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust is committed to ensuring the best possible outcome for all patients. We take mortality indicators very seriously and use a number of sources to assure ourselves of the quality of our care. In particular a review of all deaths is undertaken by a senior medical team.</p> <p>In addition, each month, a specialty department meets the Chair, Chief Executive and Medical Director to explain mortality levels in their department. We also undertake patient safety walkrounds where directors talk to frontline staff to discuss any concerns and Nursing Care Indicators which audit quality of care on the wards.</p> <p>We monitor ‘mortality indicators’ actively and use them sensibly as a trigger to ask further questions and to highlight potential areas for further analysis or investigation. We are pleased to say that on all occasions where we have followed up a mortality alert presented to us by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), both we and the CQC were assured of the quality of our care.</p> <p>We welcome all information that will help us with our efforts to continually improve.</p>	