

For the Record – Press Statements

Publication	Express & Star
Date of article	Thursday 20 th February 2014
Reporter	Andrew Turton
Headline	Dental service says no to new patients
First paragraph/s of article	<p>A service providing corrective dental treatments for residents in Dudley has been temporarily closed to new patients.</p> <p>Dudley Group Foundation NHS Trust has taken the action after being unable to recruit a second consultant for the service.</p>
Press enquiry	The Express & Star contacted the Trust after hearing that The Dudley Group has stopped taking new referrals into orthodontic services.
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>The Dudley Group has temporarily closed our orthodontic service to new patients. However, we would like to assure our existing patients undergoing treatment that their treatment plans will continue as normal.</p> <p>The decision to temporarily close the service to new referrals was taken because of a significant mismatch between demand and capacity: during the period 4th January 2013 to 2nd January 2014, we received approximately 1,058 new referrals.</p> <p>The service is led by a single consultant and, despite several attempts to recruit a second consultant orthodontist; we have been unable to do so. Unfortunately, this is in line with a national problem recruiting orthodontists.</p> <p>The decision was not taken lightly and the temporary closure of the service to new referrals will enable us to effectively manage our waiting list.</p> <p>Dudley dentists will still be able to refer their patients to other providers across Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country.</p>	

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Notes for editors

For further information please contact Alice Ford, Communications Assistant, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust on 01384 456111 extension 1419.