

**For the Record – Press Statements**

<b>Publication</b>	Express and Star
<b>Date of article</b>	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2015
<b>Reporter</b>	Andrew Turton
<b>Headline</b>	<b>Hospital facing £8M black hole</b>
<b>First paragraph/s of article</b>	<p>AN £8 million black hole has opened in the budgets of Russells Hall Hospital, prompting a stark warning from regulators investigating its finances.</p> <p>NHS body Monitor says the trust which runs Dudley's main hospital must implement a 'robust' plan to arrest its financial decline.</p>
<b>Press enquiry</b>	<p>The Express and Star contacted the Trust after Monitor issued a press release stating it has taken action at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust to ensure it improves its finances.</p> <p><b>Question:</b>          The Express and Star asked the Trust to provide a statement about Monitor's press release.</p>
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>Our regulator Monitor has today (wed 28<sup>th</sup> Jan) taken further action to ensure the Trust improves its financial position for long term sustainability.</p> <p>Monitor has now secured legally binding commitments from the Trust that we will develop and implement, a robust strategic plan to address our financial decline; and also an effective financial recovery plan for breaking even.</p> <p>We have already begun strict financial controls for vacancies and we are currently beginning workforce reduction plans which will reduce our workforce by 400 posts over the next two years. We continue with our turnaround plans which are making efficiencies across the system and are now forecasting £7.5m deficit close to our plan for the year.</p>	

We are pleased that Monitor have closed the element of their investigation about the four hour target to see treat, admit or discharge patients from their arrival in ED due to our improved performance.

We were very pleased to achieve the four-hour A&E target for quarter 3 (October – December 2014) and that meeting this target put us as the 11<sup>th</sup> best district general hospital in the country (only 13 trusts met the target in Q3) and the only Trust in the midlands to meet the target. We have seen unprecedented levels of demand on our emergency services since the New Year. This means our patients are receiving the right care in the right place as quickly as possible.

We are very pleased that in the week ending 18<sup>th</sup> January, we saw, treated, admitted and discharged 98.52% of our 1684 A&E patients within four hours of their arrival. Of these 1684 patients, 578 were admitted into hospital.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

**Notes for editors**

For further information please contact the communications team for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via (01384 456111) or email [communications@dgh.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@dgh.nhs.uk)