

Friday 8th January 2016

**COMMENT FROM PAUL BYTHEWAY, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, THE
DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

The Dudley Group has been notified by the British Medical Association that it intends to call its junior doctor members out on industrial action on Tuesday 12th January, Tuesday 26th January and Wednesday 10th February 2016.

We anticipate most junior doctors will be taking industrial action on those dates and are working to minimise the impact on patients where possible.

Strike action is due to take place from 8am on Tuesday 12th January to 8am Wednesday 13th January; from 8am on Tuesday 26th January to 8am on Thursday 28th January; from 8am to 5pm on Wednesday 10th February.

We are in the process of finalising our contingency plans. Our priority will be to ensure that safe emergency, urgent and inpatient services are maintained.

Women who are in labour during the strike period will see no change to their care and will give birth as usual, whether in hospital on our delivery suite or Midwifery-led Unit, or at home if they have chosen a home birth.

It is very likely that some outpatient and other appointments will need to be rescheduled. All patients affected will be contacted directly and offered an alternative appointment in the future. It is very important for patients who have not been contacted by hospital staff to attend their appointments as normal.

We would ask patients to consider other options and only use Accident and Emergency if absolutely necessary. If people are unsure about where they should go, they can call NHS 111 at any time day or night for free health advice and to be directed towards the most appropriate health service for their needs.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused to patients whose procedures have been rescheduled.

We will continue to review the situation and make further arrangements as necessary.

*** ENDS ***

For more information, please call Jackie Dietrich, Communications Manager for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, on (01384) 456111 extension 1314 or email Jackie.dietrich@dgh.nhs.uk