

**For the Record – Press Statement**

<b>Publication and reporter</b>	Express & Star, Andrew Turton and Richard Guttridge
<b>Date of article</b>	01/03/16
<b>Headline</b>	<b>Staff shortages at hospital revealed</b>
<b>First paragraphs of article</b>	Dozens of shifts were understaffed at Dudley’s Russells Hall Hospital during the past 12 months, new figures reveal.
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>Patient safety is always our priority, and so when nurse staffing levels fall below the planned level, we have processes and measures in place to ensure our patients continue to receive safe, appropriate care.</p> <p>When a shortfall is identified, the situation is first reviewed by a senior nurse who will look at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The remaining number of registered nurses</li> <li>• The number of support workers and student nurses</li> <li>• The number of patients being cared for on that ward</li> <li>• How poorly those patients are and the level of support they require</li> </ul> <p>We will first try to fill a shortfall by utilising staff already on site at that time, this may be by moving staff between wards, pooling together teams from neighbouring wards, or asking staff not normally included in our nurse to patient ratios (such as matrons, specialist nurses and ward managers) to refocus their duties and work in the area where there is a clinical need.</p> <p>If arrangements cannot be made using the existing staff on site, we will then attempt to fill the shortfall from our own staff bank. If no bank staff are available, we will then employ agency staff to ensure patients receive safe, appropriate care.</p> <p>The number of shifts where staffing is not at the level we had planned is steadily reducing.</p> <p><b>Recruitment</b></p> <p>Over the last three years the Trust has developed a robust recruitment strategy that</p>	

has included local, national and international recruitment drives for a number of staff groups.

In April this year we will be visiting the Philippines to recruit registered nurses and plan to visit India later in the year. We hope to welcome these nurses to the Trust by November 2016.

Local recruitment continues and further Open Days and a rolling advert for registered nurses remains on NHS Jobs.

**Are the figures that the BBC quoted today correct on present staffing positions?**

Yes, the figures quoted, which relate to November 2015, are correct.

\*\*\* 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)

**Press enquiry**

The Express & Star contacted the Trust after reading the Trust's Chief Nurse's Report presented on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March at the Board of Directors meeting.

The reporter found 490 shifts had fewer nurses on duty than was recommended since February 2015.

The reporter also heard from a local radio report that some trusts were looking to recruit staff from abroad and that there were currently 61 doctor vacancies 83 nurses vacancies at The Dudley Group.

The Trust was asked to respond to the following questions:

- What is the trust trying to do to ensure staff shortages are addressed when not at the planned level?
- Are the figures quoted on local radio about the number of doctor and nurse vacancies correct?
- Is the Trust recruiting staff from abroad and what is the trust doing for recruitment in general?