

MEDIA COMMENT

Tuesday 8th March 2016

**COMMENT FROM PAULA CLARK, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, 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 from 8am on Wednesday 9th March until 8am on Friday 11th March 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.

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 and procedures 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 they are facing a serious or life-threatening emergency. 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 *****

Notes for editors

At present, the numbers of appointments, procedures and operations we anticipate will be rescheduled as a result of industrial action are as follows:

- 282 outpatient appointments rescheduled
- 1 inpatient operation rescheduled

We do not anticipate that any day case procedures will be rescheduled.

For further information please contact Alice Ford, Communications and Staff Engagement Officer, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, on (01384) 244403 or email communications@dgh.nhs.uk