

For the Record – Press Statement

Publication and reporter	Express & Star, Jamie Brassington
Date of article	01/12/16
Headline	Staff shortage at hospital on 136 occasions
First paragraph/s of article	A hospital in the Black Country was understaffed on more than 130 occasions over a month, new figures revealed.
Press enquiry	<p>The Express & Star contacted the Trust in relation to information published in the Chief Nurse report in December's Board Papers.</p> <p>The Trust was asked to comment on the number of shifts where nurse/midwife staffing levels were below the required level and provide an update on nurse recruitment.</p>
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM DR PAUL HARRISON, ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>In October we saw a higher than expected number of patients with complex needs. For example, our Maternity Unit had a higher than expected number of complex births. This explains the increase in the number of shifts under the required levels of staff.</p> <p>We have robust escalation systems to manage these situations and patient safety was maintained in all cases. We expect the position to return to normal levels in November.</p> <p>There is a national shortage of many health professionals, specifically registered nurses. We are doing all we can to recruit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We hold regular recruitment days for nursing and midwifery • We visit career days at universities • We have rolling adverts on NHS Jobs for a number of roles which are promoted via social media • We are working with Health Education England to encourage former and 	

retired health professionals to return to practice

- We continue to welcome graduate health professionals following placements with us
- We are exploring further EU recruitment

***** ENDS *****

Notes for editors

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