

For the Record – Press Statement

Publication and reporter	Express & Star, Judith Hawkins
Date of article	09/01/2017
Headline	Hospital ward will stay open
First paragraph/s of article	A move to close a ward at Russells Hall Hospital was abandoned because of the increasing demand on A&E, health chiefs revealed.
Press enquiry	<p>The Express & Star contacted the Trust about Cost Improvement Programme projects published in January's Board Papers.</p> <p>The Trust was asked to comment on the three projects which were unsuccessful and how much the Trust planned to save.</p>
Trust response	
<p>COMMENT FROM DR PAUL HARRISON, ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</p> <p>We have 57 individual Cost Improvement Programme (CIP) schemes underway which aim to improve patient care and experience whilst also ensuring good value for money. So far this year, CIP projects have saved the Trust £6.8m. By the end of the financial year, we expect the saving to be £10.2m.</p> <p>Some of our projects have not yet made the level of savings we anticipated. We had hoped to close one of our inpatient wards; however, due to increased pressure and emergency admissions, this has not been possible. As a result, we were also unable to reduce our temporary staffing spend to the level we had hoped.</p> <p>There has also been a delay in introducing new medical equipment into our pathology laboratories which will eventually save us nearly £1m per annum.</p> <p>Although we were unable to close one of our wards, we have instead converted Ward A1 into a new GP-led rehabilitation facility called The Evergreen Unit. This has a team of dedicated nurses and occupational therapists who work to help patients become more confident and independent for when they leave hospital.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*** ENDS ***</p>	

Notes for editors

For further information please contact Alice Ford, Communications Officer for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via 01384 244403 or email

communications@dgh.nhs.uk