

### For the Record – Press Statement

<b>Publication and reporter</b>	Express & Star, Richard Guttridge
<b>Date of article</b>	02/03/2017
<b>Headline</b>	<b>Bed blocking hits new high at hospital</b>
<b>First paragraph/s of article</b>	Bed blocking has reached an ‘all-time high’ at Russells Hall Hospital, with more than 150 patients ready to be discharged taking up beds on the wards.
<b>Press enquiry</b>	<p>The Express &amp; Star contacted the Trust in relation to March’s Board papers which state that DTOCs are at an ‘all time high’.</p> <p>The Trust was asked to comment on the situation and clarify the 154 medically fit patients also referred to on the same page.</p>
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM PAUL BYTHEWAY, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>The number of delayed transfers of care (DTOCs) continues to be a challenge for the Trust, with the number of patients who are medically fit to leave hospital but unable to do so at an all-time high.</p> <p>This is due to the well documented pressure across the whole health and social care system and an increase in the number of patients with complex needs who need ongoing support after discharge.</p> <p>We continue to work closely and collaboratively with our commissioners, colleagues in health and social care and the voluntary sector across the Dudley borough and beyond to ensure that packages of care, assessments and additional support for patients can be put in place as soon as possible. Over the last 12 months we have worked with the council to enable more people to be discharged and assessed in their own homes, this helps people to get home more quickly.</p> <p>As a health economy, here in Dudley we plan to bring the percentage of DTOCs down to 3.5% by September this year. We are currently on track to achieve this and are confident that, with continued close working, the number of DTOCs will reduce over the coming months.</p>	

**\*\*\* ENDS \*\*\***

**Notes for editors**

- If a patient is 'medically fit' it means they are no longer in need of acute care and are; therefore, ready to be discharged from hospital.
- The 154 referred to in the Board papers is a snapshot figure and refers to the total number of inpatients at that time who were medically fit for discharge but had not yet been discharged. This could be due to any number of reasons, health and social care related or otherwise. It does not necessarily mean that all of these patients were subject to any significant delay in their discharge.

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

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