

**For the Record – Press Statement**

<b>Publication and reporter</b>	Express & Star, Jamie Brassington Dudley/Stourbridge News, Bev Holder
<b>Date of article</b>	25.04.17
<b>Headline</b>	Express & Star: <b>Charity worker Gwen leaves with sadness</b> Dudley/Stourbridge News: <b>Hospital fundraiser's departure is bittersweet</b>
<b>Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group</b>	Express & Star: A charity worker who raised thousands of pounds for a Black Country hospital is in dispute with bosses over how the cash was spent. Dudley/Stourbridge News: A dedicated hospital supporter called it a day after a lifetime of fundraising but she says her departure is tinged with sadness.
<b>Press enquiry</b>	The Express & Star and Dudley/Stourbridge News contacted the Trust in relation to Gwen Timmins' retirement from fundraising for The Dudley Group.
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p><b>COMMENT FROM DIANE WAKE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE DUDLEY GROUP NHS FOUNDATION TRUST</b></p> <p>The Dudley Group NHS Charity adheres to very strict guidance issued by the Charity Commission and our practices are audited annually.</p> <p>During a meeting with Gwen Timmins in 2013, she agreed that we should manage the funds she raised because she no longer wanted the administrative burden and costs associated with fundraising. Following the meeting, the funds were transferred into the Dudley Group NHS Charity.</p> <p>Gwen agreed in writing that the money would be spent at the Trust's discretion to benefit patients that required pain relief, for example, rheumatology patients. The funds have been spent on equipment and furniture, in particular on comfortable high backed chairs in theatre waiting areas.</p> <p>We always comply with our donors' wishes, and let them know how the money is spent if they wish to know. Our charity is administered in line with Charity Commission protocols.</p>	

We would like to thank Gwen for all her fabulous fundraising efforts over the years which have greatly benefited patients being treated at Russells Hall Hospital. We wish her all the very best in her retirement.

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

**Notes for editors**

For further information please contact Jackie Dietrich, Communications Manager, for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust via 01384 321013 or email [communications@dgh.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@dgh.nhs.uk)